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**From:** Mashburn, Lori

**Sent:** 2017-10-25T13:10:04:00

**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report for 10/25

**Received:** 2017-10-25T13:11:03-04:00

[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 10-25-17.docx](#)

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 10/25/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

### **STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

#### **TODAY:**

- Meeting with USAID Administrator
- Remarks to Weyrich Lunch
- Meeting with Representative Cramer (ND)
  - o Red River Valley Water Supply Project
- Meeting with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos

#### **THIS WEEK:**

10/26 DC Meeting with Danish Minister for Energy, Utilities, and Climate, Mr. Lars Christian

- American Heroes Roundtable
- Meeting with Tom Hutchison

10/27 DC Call with Governor Mary Fallin (OK)

- Meeting with the President

### **STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in DC conducting internal meetings

**WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Tuesday, 10/24)**Press Inquiries:**

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **\*\*Multiple Inquires\*\* (NBC-Gabe Gutierrez, NYT- Deborah Acosta, Reuters-Emily Flitter)—REQUEST--** Would someone from Secretary Zinke's office call me to discuss Whitefish Energy. Here are my questions: 1) Did Sec. Zinke play any role in securing the contract for Whitefish Energy to work in Puerto Rico? 2) Does Sec. Zinke know the company's chief executive, Andy Techmanski? 3) The Washington Post reported that one of Sec. Zinke's sons once worked a summer job at one of the company's construction sites. Is that correct? Also, confirming this statement provided to the Post: "The Secretary always politely listens when citizens and the small business community approach him with concerns and ideas. Neither the Secretary nor anyone in his office have taken any meetings or action on behalf of this company."**—RESPONSE--** On background, Neither the Secretary nor anyone in his office have taken any meetings or action on behalf of this company. The Zinkes and the Techmanskis know each other because they both live in a small town (population 6,000) where everyone knows everyone and his son joined a friend who worked a summer job at one of their construction sites.
- **CNN: (Rene Marsh)—REQUEST 1--** CNN is looking for information/clarity on Secretary Zinke and his familiarity with Andrew Techmanski, the CEO of Whitefish Energy. Have the two worked together before? In what capacity? How Does the Secretary know Techmanski? Has Techmanski or any of his business partners worked with Zinke on any projects either as Secretary or when Zinke was a member of congress? Did Zinke recommend Whitefish Energy for the contract to help restore Puerto Rico? Did Zinke have any influence or involvement either directly or indirectly with Whitefish securing the contract in Puerto Rico? Has this company or any of its leadership, including the CEO, had any political connections to Zinke or his wife during their political careers. Donations directly or indirectly? What was/is the Secretary's involvement in the overall recovery process for Puerto Rico?**—RESPONSE 1--** On background, Neither the Secretary nor anyone in his office have taken any meetings or action on behalf of this company. The Zinkes and the Techmanskis know each other because they both live in a small town (population 6,000) where everyone knows everyone and his son joined a friend who worked a summer job at one of their construction sites. **REQUEST 2—** Did the Secretary work with or communicate with Techmanskis in the aftermath of the hurricane? Were they in communication after the hurricane discussing any aspect of the recovery effort or anything else?**—RESPONSE 2--** Background: No. The gentleman sent an email but there was not action taken on it (no reply, forward, discussion, etc). Not for a statement, just for your context - The secretary's phone number and email address have been published multiple times over the years so he gets a lot of emails/cold calls/letters.**—REQUEST 3--** One additional question beyond

the content of the email sent from Techmanski to Zinke. I understand in 2016, then-Congressman Rep. Zinke's office reached out to local officials in Montana about a Whitefish Energy project. Can you the Secretary provide you with insight on why he intervened? What sort of assistance did Zinke's office provide to Whitefish?—**RESPONSE 3**-- On background: That is not accurate. No intervention was taken by Zinke or his office. I'm understand a local field representative in the Congressional office was contacted by an employee of the business, the field rep listened politely took no action and referred him to the Senators' offices.

• **E&E News: (Pamela King)—REQUEST--** I was wondering if Interior has any initial thoughts to share on the HOARD Act introduced today by Rep.

Lowenthal:[https://www.eenews.net/assets/2017/10/24/document\\_gw\\_03.pdf](https://www.eenews.net/assets/2017/10/24/document_gw_03.pdf).

The bill would require annual reports to Congress on APD data.—**RESPONSE--**

The Department has not taken an official position on the bill at this time. FYI -

So far this year the BLM has decreased their processing time for APDs by an average of 46 days.

• **E&E News: (Kellie Lunney)—REQUEST--** Politico ran this item today. Is this accurate? Will the secretary be on the Hill today to meet with members of the Natural Resources Cmte? Why the secrecy? **ZINKE'S SUPER SECRET HILL HUDDLE** - Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will meet this afternoon with House Natural Resources Committee members in a room typically reserved for issues involving a high-security clearance. Zinke will meet separately with committee Democrats and Republicans. Copies of invitations obtained by Huddle say he will be "raising a confidential matter" and only members and staff with top-secret level clearance may attend. Democratic Rep. [Ruben Gallego](#) told Huddle there's "nothing normal" about meeting with Zinke in such secure spot given his department has very little oversight over clandestine issues and said it's likely a way to limit participation since very few staffers on the panel have a security clearance.—**RESPONSE--** I'm not at liberty to discuss conversations that may or may not be held in a secure location.

### **Top Stories**

- **New York Post:** [No-name firm with Zinke ties lands \\$300M Puerto Rico power contract](#)
- **Politico:** [Zinke funneled millions to questionable PACs](#)
- **Missoulian:** [Whitefish firm's \\$300 million repair contract in Puerto Rico raises questions](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [Trump administration plans 'largest oil and gas lease sale in US history'](#)

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, Interior announced oil and gas lease sale #250. This is set to be the largest acreage sale in the history of the Gulf of Mexico. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).
- Today, Secretary Zinke hosted two hour-long meetings with the House Natural Resources Committee Rs and Ds.
- Tonight, Secretary Zinke is joining conservative reporters for an off the record dinner.
- This week, Interior will release the Energy Burdens Report.
- This week, Interior will announce an oil and gas lease sale in Alaska at the National Petroleum Reserve.
- Thursday, Interior will host an event with VSOs to improve coordination with and services for veterans. The event will be open press.
- Friday, the Secretary will meet with POTUS.

## **AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD October 18 thru October 26, 2017 (Submitted 10/18)**

### **Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews**

- **October 25:** Secretary Zinke is addressing the Weyrich Lunch meeting, a weekly forum for reporting to conservative leaders. He will speak about DOI priorities and achievements.
- **October 26:** Secretary Zinke is hosting an American Heroes Roundtable discussion and listening session with disabled veterans who are sportsmen and sportswomen. Focus will be on providing better access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreation.
- **October 27:** Secretary Zinke is recording a Veterans Day video message for DOI employees.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **October TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others
- **October TBD: FWS News Bulletin:** FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **October 23 – 25:** BLM-CO Royal Gorge Field Office, CO Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service will hold three public meetings to discuss plans to revise the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area River Management Plan. Discussion will focus on current boating capacities and existing facilities along the Arkansas River, from Leadville to Lake Pueblo State Park.
- **October 25:** BLM-CA State Director Jerry Perez, Desert District Manager Beth Ransel and Barstow Field Manager Katrina Symons will meet with officials at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range. Issues to be discussed include implementation of base expansion and land transfer, renewable energy, desert tortoises, recreation and off-highway vehicle access.
- **October 26:** BLM-AK Acting State Director Karen Mouritsen will attend the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee meeting at the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center, in Anchorage.
- **October 26:** BLM-WY Cody Field Office will host a public meeting in Shell, Wyoming, in support of the 45-day scoping period for the Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project Environmental Impact Statement.
- **October 26:** BLM-WY Casper Field Office will hold a public meeting about tribal consultation for oil and gas permits in Converse County, Wyoming

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **October 26 - November 1:** A six-member team from the Bureau of Reclamation will visit Taipei, Taiwan, to participate in the 30th anniversary meeting between Reclamation and Taiwan's Water Resources Agency. Reclamation serves as the designated technical representative of the American Institute in Taiwan, the official arm of the U.S. Department of State in Taiwan.

### **CONGRESSIONAL**

**UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislative hearing on S. 1870, Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act 2017; S. 1953, Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of 2010; and S. \_\_, Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act. Witness will Bryan Rice, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Timing:** October 25, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee is set to host a legislative hearing on Rep. Don

Young's H.R. 215, American Indian Empowerment Act of 2017. Witness is John Tahsuda, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

**Timing:** October 25, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

**POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (updated)**

DOI politicals on board = 61

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

Overall:

- Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 24 of 44 onboard; 4 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

**SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

Accepted:

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

10/28 Remarks at Washington International Horse Show DC)

10/29 Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Island (DC)

11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)

11/9 National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)

11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)  
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)  
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

#### Declining

10/26 - Montana Chamber Annual Meeting (Great Falls, MT)  
10/28 Cattle Producers of Washington Annual Meeting (Airway Heights, WA)  
10/30-11/3 International Mining and Resources Conference (Melbourne, Australia)  
10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)  
11/1 - 2017 SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Festival (Jackson Hole, WY)  
11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt  
11/8 WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)  
11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)  
11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield, MO)  
11/14 George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** (new)

##### **Port Aransas, Texas Fatal Barge Fire and Oil Spill:**

The Barge remains off the Port Aransas Channel along with two support vessels. High volume foam is being placed in the void space to keep lower explosive limits (LEL) at acceptable levels until lightering and transit operations are complete. The Barge has released no additional product and no floating oil was observed during the afternoon overflight. Approximately 2,146 barrels (bbls) of oily water mixture were skimmed from the water and 1,900 feet of containment and deflection boom remain in place within the Port. Wildlife teams continue to conduct evaluations in the field.

NPS reports a slight amount of oil has been identified on the beaches within the first 10 miles of the Padre Island National Seashore. The park has observed a small number of oiled birds and a northeastern wind is keeping the bulk of the oil off shore at this time; however, the situation could change when the wind shifts to a normal southeastern direction. The oil is described as a heavy fuel oil that has a long residence time in the environment. Yesterday, one of the two individuals killed in the explosion washed ashore near mile marker 6 in the park and was discovered by U.S. Border Patrol Agents. The body was removed, and given the amount of debris in the area, the second individual is likely to come ashore on NPS lands as well. The USCG is the lead for the investigation of the incident overall.

**Hurricane Response/Recovery:**

The Department of Homeland Security reports that, in Puerto Rico, power has been restored to approximately 24 (+6)-percent of customers and the expectation is that 95-percent of Puerto Rico will be restored by December 15. Potable water has been restored to more than 73 (+1)-percent of clients served by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. Telecommunications officials estimate 87 (+2)-percent of the population lives in areas where wireless voice and text service has been restored. The USNS Robert E. Peary is expected to arrive today to bring the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, 800 pallets of water, and MREs. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, grid power has been restored for 30 (+1)-percent of the population on St. Thomas, 2.9 (+1.3)-percent on St. Croix, and efforts on St. John are now expected to begin in two to three weeks. The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority estimates 90-percent of the power will be restored by November 23. In total, there are over 20,000 federal personnel that are directly supporting recovery operations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Wildland Fire National Preparedness Level:**

As of 12:00 p.m. EDT, October 23, the National Preparedness Level (PL) was decreased to Level 2. Large wildland fire and attack activity has decreased nationally and demobilization is occurring on the majority of large fires. Competition for resources has significantly decreased, allowing this reduction in level to occur.

**OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)**Democrats Call For Investigation Of \$300 Million Contract For Firm With Ties To Zinke.**

There was significant coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's ties to an small company from his hometown that was awarded a major contract to help restore power to Puerto Rico's power grid. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/24, story 7, 2:10, Muir) reported a "Montana company [was] given the contract to get the power back on" in Puerto Rico "with just two workers when it landed that contract." ABC (Thomas) added, "Whitefish Energy, a private Montana company with just two full-time employees, awarded a \$300 million contract by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority. The company showcasing its work on Twitter," but "some Democrats are already calling for an investigation into that contract" to Whitefish Energy a firm from the "hometown of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke."

**Interior Proposes Raising Fees At Popular National Parks.**

[The Hill](#) (10/24, Henry) reports the Interior Department is considering higher peak-season fees at 17 of its most popular national parks "during their busiest five-month periods." The agency said the increased fees would "help ensure that they are protected and preserved in perpetuity and that visitors enjoy a world-class experience that mirrors the amazing destinations they are visiting." In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The infrastructure of our national parks is aging and in



need of renovation and restoration.” Zinke added, “We need to have the vision to look at the future of our parks and take action in order to ensure that our grandkids’ grandkids will have the same if not better experience than we have today. Shoring up our parks’ aging infrastructure will do that.” President Trump proposed trimming the National Park Service’s budget by 12.9 percent this year, “despite concerns from officials with the department and in Congress about the state of the Park Service’s infrastructure.”

### **Trump’s ‘Energy Independence’ Order: Where Do Things Stand?**

E&E Publishing (10/24) reports that this month, the Trump administration “hit two milestones in their wide-ranging examination of Obama-era rules” that could be considered burdensome to U.S. energy producers. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt “formally proposed a repeal of the Clean Power Plan” just days after the Bureau of Land Management “unveiled its plan to postpone key parts of a rule the Obama administration introduced to limit venting, flaring and leakage of natural gas from energy operations on public and tribal lands.” President Trump is also credited with disbanding “an interagency working group that focused on the social cost of carbon and related tools that put a dollar amount on the impacts of carbon, nitrous oxide and methane.”

### **Can Solar Save A Huge Coal Plant? Zinke’s Thinking About It.**

E&E Publishing (10/24, Patterson, Storrow) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke met with South African billionaire Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and two members of his company, NantWorks, to discuss the possibility of using high-powered solar technology at the Navajo Generation Station, one of America’s largest coal plants, “as the Trump administration searches for a way to keep the facility from closing.” The northeast Arizona facility is “scheduled to retire in 2019 after four utilities with a stake in the facility voted to close it earlier this year.” The Interior Department is a minor owner in the plant, which the Trump Administration opposes shuttering. According to the article, Zinke’s meeting “appeared to catch some of the administration’s allies off guard.” For example, the “economies of the Navajo and Hopi tribes are heavily reliant on the coal industry, and tribal leaders have loudly opposed plans to close NGS.” In an email, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift wrote that the department is interested “in an economic pathway where NGS operates post-2019.”

### **Developers Plan Wind Farms Off Jersey as Christie Era Ends.**

Bloomberg News (10/24, Ryan) reports, “after years of being sidelined by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, wind farm developers are dusting off plans for massive offshore turbines that may someday generate more electricity than a nuclear reactor.” As governor, Christie “effectively blocked wind farms off his state’s coast by never fully implementing a program that would subsidize the projects.” Bloomberg writes that Christie’s departure “presents a potentially rich market for offshore wind,” with low power prices and a geographical position “midway between offshore wind development sites in New England and the Southeast, making the state a potential

hub for ferrying supplies to build projects in other states.” The article quotes US Wind Director of Project Development Paul Rich, “New Jersey has all the classic elements for offshore wind to work. The time is right, and the market is ripe.”

### **Celebrity Ambassadors Put Lesser-Known U.S. National Parks In The Limelight.**

The Washington Post (10/23, Sachs) reports that for its 101th birthday, the National Parks Service and National Park Foundation “launched Parks 101, an ongoing online series that will introduce the masses to lesser-known destinations within the 417-site system.” The goal of the series is to encourage visitors to start attending its minor locations. “The places that are iconic are well worth visiting,” said Will Shafroth, president and chief executive of the foundation, “but we wanted to spark interest in the places that hardly anyone knows about.” He explained the series includes videos and social media posts by celebrity ambassadors and focuses on destinations that offer a diversity of experiences.

### **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Notices submitted to the Federal Register for Monday, October 23rd:

REG0007542 BIA Agency Information Collection Activities; Indian Child Welfare Quarterly and Annual Report -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Indian Child Welfare Quarterly and Annual Report. The BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 10/24/2017

REG0007543 BIA Agency Information Collection Activities; Tribal Probate Codes -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Tribal Probate Codes. The BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 10/24/2017

REG0007557 BIA Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Amendment to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Ordinance -- This Notice publishes an amendment to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Alcoholic Beverage Control Ordinance. The amendment will be applicable 30 days after publication of this Notice in the Federal Register. Notice 10/24/2017

REG0007539 BLM Notice of Public Meeting: Alaska Resource Advisory Council -- The Alaska Resource Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on November 16-17, 2017. Notice must be approved NLT October 26, 2017 in order to meet FACA 15-day advance notice of public meeting requirement. Notice 10/24/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison

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**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2017-10-24T18:57:16-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Briefing Binder and Calendar for tomorrow.  
**Received:** 2017-10-24T18:57:34-04:00  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[Secretary Devos Memo on BIE 10-25-17.pdf](#)  
[USAID Consolidatd Event Memo 102417 3pm.docx](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)  
[Weyrich Lunch Briefing - 10%2F25%2F17.docx](#)  
[ATT00003.htm](#)  
[1025 Weyrich.docx](#)  
[ATT00004.htm](#)  
[10-25-17 Red River Valley Water Supply Project.docx](#)  
[ATT00005.htm](#)  
[Daily Schedule.docx](#)  
[ATT00006.htm](#)

Laura Keehner Rigas  
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov>  
**Date:** October 24, 2017 at 6:54:25 PM EDT  
**To:** Aaron Thiele <aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Leila Getto <leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b) (6)@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens <todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Rusty Roddy <russell\_roddy@ios.doi.gov>, Wesley Bullock <wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov>, Elinor Renner <elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, cdr06@ios.doi.gov  
**Subject:** Briefing Binder and Calendar for tomorrow.

Attached.

**To:** Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Mashburn, Lori  
**Sent:** 2017-09-22T13:58:06-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Report for 9/22/2017  
**Received:** 2017-09-22T13:59:09-04:00  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/22/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

TODAY: Dallas, TX - Dinner Remarks at NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Closed Press).

9/23 Austin, TX - tour and briefing of FEMA JFO & visit of Austin USGS office. Due to Austin visit, he is no longer attending the Wolf Trap Ball

**WEEK AHEAD:**

9/25 DC – Interview with Kim Strassel, WSJ

Meeting with Federated States of Micronesia President Peter Christian

Remarks at National Petroleum Council Meeting, Hay Adams

9/26 DC – Remarks at National Clean Energy Week Symposium, Reserve Officers Association

Wild Horse Roundtable

Meeting with House Speaker Paul Ryan

Meeting with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Remarks and Receipt of Jefferson Island Club Citizen of the Year Award, Siemens Corporation

9/27-9/28 – Travel to Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey, various National Park Assets in Philadelphia (including Valley Forge), meeting with County Commissioners.

9/29 DC – Remarks at Heritage Foundation on “A Vision for Energy Dominance”

Meeting regarding Shawnee Trust

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

**MEDIA TODAY**

**Secretary Zinke Announces \$94.3 Million to States for Parks and Outdoor Recreation through Land and Water Conservation Fund**

*Federal grants invest in state and local parks using earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing*

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that \$94.3 million will be distributed for outdoor recreation and conservation projects to the 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is funded through offshore oil and gas leasing. These funds are awarded through federal matching grants that leverage public and private investment in America's state and local public parks.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund state grant program has been a resounding success that makes physical investments in our communities," **Secretary Zinke said**. "From Detroit, Michigan, to Lake Tahoe, California, the program benefits citizens across the nation by helping state and local governments make infrastructure investments in urban, suburban, and rural parks. By advancing the Administration's offshore energy goals, we will be able to generate more revenue for the fund to improve conservation and recreation opportunities for generations to come."

"I have long supported the Land and Water Conservation Fund and I'm very pleased to see Secretary Zinke's announcement today, including \$2.3 million for North Carolina parks and outdoor recreation," **said Senator Richard Burr**. "The LWCF, which is funded through oil and gas royalties from federal lands at no cost to the taxpayer, has a proven track record of conserving our parks, open spaces, and wildlife habitats for the benefit of future generations. I'm pleased to see Secretary Zinke's commitment to the program, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to permanently reauthorize it going forward."

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund has played a large role in protecting Tennessee's outdoors for over 50 years – providing more than \$200 million to conservation and outdoor recreation efforts in our state," **said Senator Lamar Alexander**. "Today's announcement that Tennessee will receive more than \$1.7 million from LWCF is good news as it will help continue to preserve our state's beautiful land, water resources and recreation areas so future generations have the same opportunities to enjoy them as we have."

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1965 to ensure access to outdoor recreation resources for present and future generations. The funds enable state and local governments to improve existing parks and other recreation areas in their communities through rehabilitation and upgrade projects. These funds are also used to develop and expand parks, trail systems, and recreation opportunities.

"As leading providers of parks and natural areas for outdoor recreation, counties welcome the

Department of the Interior's investments in local communities through the Land and Water Conservation Fund," **said National Association of Counties Executive Director Matthew Chase**. "These matching grants help counties maintain open spaces that contribute to vibrant communities across the country."

"Having access to a local park is part of what makes a city a great place to live, work and play," **said Clarence E. Anthony, CEO and Executive Director of the National League of Cities (NLC)**. "The Land and Water Conservation Fund plays an invaluable role in helping cities create and improve parks, open space and outdoor recreation opportunities. The fund also protects our wetlands, refuges and wildlife habitats and helps cities build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities."

Since the inception of the LWCF, more than \$4.1 billion has been made available to state and local governments to fund more than 42,000 projects throughout the nation.

The allocation for the State and Local Assistance grant (stateside) program is determined based on a formula set in the LWCF Act and the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. For more information, please visit [www.nps.gov/lwcf](http://www.nps.gov/lwcf).

**WH COMMS REPORT** (new report filed Thursday)

#### **TV Hits:**

- **NRA TV: Secretary Zinke unveils Big Buck Hunter Pro with NRATV**

#### **Press Inquiries:**

- Many small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **\*\*All inquiries on Monument Review are being directed to the White House.**
- **\*\*Multiple Inquiries\*\*** (Reuters, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, E&E News, WTOP, Bethesda Magazine) —**REQUEST**-- I'm working on an article about Gov. Larry Hogan's announcement today that he is in negotiations with the Department of the Interior to assume control of Interstate 295. He mentioned that the Department of the Interior is interested in relinquishing control of the roadway. Why is that? And what is the department's annual cost to maintain the Maryland portion of the interstate?—**RESPONSE**— Secretary Zinke and Governor Hogan recently had a wide ranging conversation about a number of issues of mutual interest. No decisions related to issues involving the Baltimore-Washington Parkway were made during that meeting.
- **\*\*Multiple Inquiries\*\*** (Reuters, Law 360, E&E News ) —**REQUEST**-- I am writing a story for Westlaw about the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit's decision today dismissing the case challenging the Interior Department's fracking regulations. Do you have a comment?—**RESPONSE**— Please direct questions regarding litigation to DOJ.

#### **Top Stories**

- **KAIT (MO): Secretary Zinke Declares October National Hunting and Fishing Month**

- **E&E News:** [Analysis points out what Zinke failed to tell Trump](#)
- **Baltimore Sun:** [\\$9 billion highway project would widen 3 major Maryland roadways with toll lanes, Hogan says](#)
- **WLUC (MI):** [Secretary Zinke announces nearly \\$2.5M for Michigan Parks, Outdoor Recreation through Land, Water Conservation Fund](#)

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, DOI announced \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 states and territories. The national press release can be seen [HERE](#).
- Yesterday, Secretary Zinke was in Springfield, Missouri, to participate in the opening of a new wildlife museum with Bass Pro Shops. Part of the event can be seen [HERE](#).
- Tomorrow, Secretary Zinke will be in Dallas to speak at an NRA Convention for women members.
- Saturday, Secretary Zinke will be in Austin, Texas, to tour the FEMA Control Center and meet part of the USGS team assisting in Hurricane Harvey relief.

### **AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD September 20 thru September 28, 2017 (Report from Wednesday, September 20)**

### **U.S. Department of the Interior**

#### *Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews*

- He will provide remarks at the NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Closed Press). On Saturday he will tour and receive a briefing of FEMA's JFO for Houston.
- **September 21: Department-level Release:** DOI and NPS announced \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects.
- **September 25-26:** the Secretary will be in Washington, D.C., meeting with the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, speaking at the National Petroleum Council meeting, as well as meeting with various advocates and outside groups about the Horse and Burro issues. We don't expect any pro-active news at these.
- **September 27-29:** the Secretary is traveling to Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey and various National Park Assets in the Philadelphia area, including Valley Forge and meeting with County Commissions.



- **September 22: Department-level Release:** DOI and BLM will announce the totals from all September oil and gas lease sales.

### National Park Service

- **September 22: Local NPS Release:** NPS Pacific West Region announces the new superintendent of Redwood National & State Parks.
- **September 23:** Antifa activists are planning a demonstration at Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial (ARHO), and in the confederate section of Arlington National Cemetery, according to social media posts. The National Park Service and United States Park Police are coordinating with local law enforcement and Arlington National Cemetery. No additional details are available at this time.
- **September 25 (tent.): Local NPS Release:** The National Park Service will notify the public of the availability of Glacier National Park's Lake McDonald Properties Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will be available for a 30-day public review period. Following the public review, the park will prepare a formal decision document. The EA analyzes alternatives to manage NPS-owned properties surrounding Lake McDonald, which includes buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed alternative includes management options for each property, including historic leasing, park or concessioner use, stabilization of properties or removal of buildings. Throughout the planning process, the park received local media and public interest with little to no controversy. Public comments were very supportive of historic leasing options.
- **September 25 (tent.): National BLM Release:** BLM will announce that it is seeking public nominations for open positions on 18 of its 36 Resource Advisory Councils (RACs). As published in a notice in the *Federal Register*, the BLM will consider nominations for 30 days.
- **September 27: Local NPS Release:** NPS will issue a news release regarding the independent review panel findings that Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog rule process was unaffected by inappropriate personal email use.
- **September 27:** The NPS National Capital Region's National Historic Landmark Program will host a stakeholder meeting as part of a joint research project underway by the NPS and the Organization of American Historians to identify potential National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) associated with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer (LGBTQ) history in the region. Invited stakeholders include state historic preservation offices, staff from selected NCR parks, local LGBTQ history representatives, and local governments' historic preservation staff.

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **September 22: Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to send to the Federal Register a final listing determination for the Kenk's amphipod, a crustacean from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. This action is not controversial. Stakeholders are the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Capital Crescent Trail, Fort A.P. Hill,

and the NPS.

- **September TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce National Wildlife Refuge Week, which will take place October 8-14. Refuge Week is an annual celebration of the nation's wildlife conservation heritage and the national wildlife refuges that protect it. The timing provides notice for print and online media to announce the annual celebration and regional events for the public to plan ahead, as well as for the regions and refuges to begin preparing additional promotional information.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **September 21: National BLM Release:** BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for three parcels in Monroe County, OH, totaling 141.56 acres, and 3 parcels in Catahoula and Bienville Parishes, LA, totaling 50.15 acres. The sale in Ohio is expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- **September 21: National BLM Release:** BLM-WY will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 141 parcels totaling 118,055.54 acres in Niobrara, Weston, Goshen, Crook, Converse, Campbell, Johnson, Fremont, Big Horn, Washakie, Weston, and Sheridan Counties, WY. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- **September 25:** The 60-day public comment period for the proposed rule to rescind the BLM's 2015 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule will end. The BLM's proposal rule aligns with Administration priorities to seek ways to reduce regulatory burdens and compliance costs. The BLM will review the comments received and take appropriate actions to address those that are substantive. Publication of a final rule in the Federal Register is anticipated in December 2017 or January 2018.
- **September 25 (tent.): National BLM Release:** BLM will issue a release regarding their announcement to seek nominations for 18 of their 36 Resource Advisory Councils.
- **September 26:** BLM-MT Butte Field Manager Scott Haight and Geologist David Williams will meet with Jefferson County and Montana Department of Environmental Quality in Boulder, MT, to discuss the future of the Montana Tunnels mine site. Montana Tunnels is an open pit mine in Jefferson County that has been inactive since 2008. It is behind on the state's bond request and owes Jefferson Co. \$5 million in back taxes, and the site is deteriorating. The meeting is the first to discuss the future of the mine site, including topics of bonding and scope of what's needed for eventual reclamation and site stabilization. The mine is located on a mix of private and BLM lands.

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **September 26:** U.S./Mexico Cooperative Process – Colorado River (“Minute 323”): Minute 323 of the Water Treaty with Mexico will be signed by the United States and Mexico commissioners of the International Boundary and Water Commission. On June 12, the Governor's representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin States communicated to Secretary of the Interior Zinke their goal of finishing the drafting of the necessary U.S. (domestic) agreements needed to allow the U.S. and Mexico to

finalize a cooperative agreement by mid-July (completion of these draft agreements would put the U.S. and Mexico in position to finalize a successor agreement to the current plan - known as Minute 319 - later this fall). The domestic agreements will also be signed on September 26. The State Department finalized consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in early August and is prepared to proceed when the Basin States clearances are complete. The State Department/IBWC will handle press.

- **September 27:** A ceremony celebrating the signing of Minute 323 to the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico will occur on the opening day of biennial Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt will attend and offer brief remarks.

### **Office of Insular Affairs**

- **September 25: National OIA Release:** OIA will issue a media read-out regarding the Federated States of Micronesia President Peter Christian Visit with the Secretary
- **September TBD:** OIA Release American Samoa Authorization to Proceed – Insular ABCs – Repairs in the Public Schools
- **September TBD:** FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million
- **September TBD:** RMI Press Release Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387
- **September TBD:** FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million

### **CONGRESSIONAL** (no change)

DOI TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE: Michele Singer (Interior Business Center, Director) will testify at hearing titled “DHS Financial Systems:

Will Modernization Ever Be Achieved?” The IBC has been involved with the financial system overhaul at DHS; however, the recommendations have not been adopted. HS Committee is doing an oversight hearing to determine what went wrong and the path forward. DOI will be testifying on their recommendations to DHS and their role throughout the process.

Timing: 10 AM, September 26, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SENR HEARING: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on Encouraging the Next Generation to Visit National Parks.

The hearing has been officially noticed, and Lena McDowall, Deputy Director for Management and Administration, will be testifying.

Timing: September 27, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is set to hold a hearing on the GAO’s reports on human trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States. BIA is invited to discuss its law enforcement agencies’ involvement in human trafficking investigations and partnerships with federal, state, local, and tribal law

enforcement. This hearing was postponed from its initial date, July 26, 2017. Jason Thompson, the Acting Director of Justice Services, is tentatively set to testify.

Timing: September 27, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

**POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE** (no change)

DOI politicals on board = 56

3 confirmed as of 9/18.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals (Voted out of Committee 9/19)

Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor (Voted out of Committee 9/19)

Overall:

Schedule C: 32 of 68 onboard; 3 starting; 6 in process

NC-SES: 22 of 44 onboard; 2 starting; 4 in process

PAS: 3 Confirmed; 4 Announced; 15 of 17 Submitted to PPO

**SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

Accepted

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/25 - Remarks at National Stone Sand and Gravel Association Legislative and Policy Forum (DC)

9/25 – National Petroleum Council

9/26 – National Clean Energy Week Symposium (DC)

9/26 - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/29 – Heritage Public Event (DC)

Oct (TBC date) - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process

10/11 - Remarks at 2nd National Wildlife Refuge System Expo co-hosted by the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus and the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) (DC)

10/15 - National Congress of American Indians 74 Annual Convention (Milwaukee, WI)

10/15-17 – Heritage Annual President's Club Meeting (DC)

10/16 - Carlsbad Mayor's Energy Summit (Carlsbad, NM)

10/20 - TXOGA Lone Star Energy Forum (Woodlands, TX)

10/26 - Montana Chamber Annual Meeting (Great Falls, MT)

Declining

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)

10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)

10/4 - NOIA Fall Meeting (Cody, WY)

10/13 - Public Land & Resources Law Review's Public Land Law Conference (Missoula, MT)

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

10-16-17 Americans For Tax Reform Coalition Leaders Summit (Miami Beach, FL)

10/17 - National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (San Antonio, TX)

10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** (new)

**Hurricane Maria:**

At 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Maria was located approximately 35 miles to the east-northeast of Grand Turk Island and moving to the northwest at 7 miles per hour (mph). A motion towards the north-northwest is expected later today and Saturday.

The National Weather Service observed rainfall accumulations of an additional 3-6 inches

throughout Puerto Rico, with isolated amounts over 40 inches. This rainfall could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

**Internal Maria/Irma response activities:**

NPS continues to complete employee accountability and conduct initial damage assessments. Despite widespread power outages, locations where NPS staff sheltered remain with power and communications due to generators and satellite phones. In the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), employees from Christiansted National Historic Site (NHS) are accounted for. Virgin Island National Park (NP) reports that 37 of their 49 personnel are accounted for. Debris was reported on St. Croix, but no major structural damages were observed from fixed-wing overflights. On St. John, debris and some damages were observed. San Juan Island National Historical Park (NHP), Puerto Rico reports that 44 of 96 employees have been accounted for. Puerto Rico experienced area flooding, flash flooding, mudslides, and utility failures as a result of Maria. Due to weather conditions, there are no other initial damage reports at this time. San Juan Island NHP is preparing a filling station for an adjacent community for non-potable water. Additionally, the park is working to provide land to support humanitarian efforts, if needed. Yesterday, San Juan Island NHP took delivery of the first round of 8 pallets of shelf stable food and water from FEMA, which will be used to support operations on the islands.

All FWS stations in the Caribbean remain closed. FWS has accounted for 19 of the 61 personnel in Puerto Rico and the USVI. Power outages and degraded communications continue to cause delays in contacting FWS personnel. Refuge Managers from the Caribbean Islands Complex and Vieques National Wildlife Refuge report catastrophic conditions throughout and have begun utilizing heavy equipment for road clearing operations. Communications on the Caribbean Islands Complex remain down for all landlines; cell and satellite phone service is spotty at best. Four FWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) personnel are deploying to Puerto Rico tomorrow morning via a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) aircraft. The FWS OLE in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, is without power and public utility water. Roads are impassable and access is restricted due to downed trees and powerlines. The facilities management group is prepared to send a 3-person assessment team to Puerto Rico as soon as transportation issues can be resolved. The Southeast Regional office is assembling response teams configured with Law Enforcement officers (LEOs), saw teams, and maintenance equipment to assist as needed.

The USGS Water Science Center in Puerto Rico reported that their generator fuel was down to a one day supply, which would force them to shut down servers and be unable to distribute hydrologic data from their streamgage network on the island. USGS coordinated with the FEMA NRCC to process a request for diesel fuel to avert the potential shut down of operations.

**Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Irma/Maria Response:**

DOI currently maintains 164 personnel supporting FEMA Mission Assignments (MA) in response to Hurricanes Maria and Irma.

NPS is supporting the Federal Search and Rescue Coordination Group.

DOI Quick Response Teams (QRT) 3 & 4 are staged and scheduled to depart Orlando, FL, for Puerto Rico later today for law enforcement operations.

OEPC deployed a Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Field Coordinator to the Joint Field Office in Orlando. The Field Coordinator will begin working with other federal agencies and the state in developing the Mission Scoping Assessment to identify impacts.

USGS reports that there were 13 personnel in the field processing storm surge sensor data and planning for additional High Water Marks (HWM), focused on the Florida Keys and southwestern Florida.

#### **Wildland fire:**

The Sprague Fire burning in Glacier National Park, MT, (NPS) has burned 16,790 (no change) acres and is 75 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 146 (-17) personnel, including 52 (-9) DOI personnel. There are 252 (no change) residential structures threatened. The fire poses a significant threat to hundreds of structures in the area, of which, 149 structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The fire is causing significant economic impacts to park concessions, outfitters, and local residents. Opportunities for wetting rain will accompany a front today. Full containment is expected on November 1.

#### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)

##### **Zinke Doles Out \$94M To Showcase The Benefits Of Trump's Pro Drilling Policy.**

The Washington Examiner (9/21, Siciliano) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "added some sweeteners to his conservation push Thursday by handing out \$94 million to states from payments the agency collects from offshore oil and natural gas drillers." Zinke "suggested that the funding was a test of the administration's pro-drilling policies that will seek to increase revenue to states as part of its energy dominance agenda." He said, "By advancing the administration's offshore energy goals, we will be able to generate more revenue for the [land conservation] fund to improve conservation and recreation opportunities for generations to come," Zinke said. The funding came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund program, which Zinke called "a resounding success" in making "physical investments in our communities."

##### **Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Rides Horses At Wilson's Creek, Announces Missouri Parks Grant.**

The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (9/21, Schmitt) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday "trekked through Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Republic and announced a \$1.75 million grant for outdoor recreation and conservation in Missouri." At Wilson's Creek, Zinke "rode a horse on a tour, met with local fourth-graders from Lyon Elementary, took part in a fence-building exercise, fired a Civil War-era cannon and spent time with U.S. Rep. Billy Long, R-Missouri, who did not ride a horse due to his injured foot." The article notes that "the students attending the event were the winners of an art contest meant to celebrate fourth-graders in the U.S. being allowed to enter national parks for free throughout the year, according to the Republic School District."

##### **Is Sexual Harassment A Problem In Our National Park System?**

KSPR-TV Springfield, MO (9/21, Pettit) reports that during a tour of Wilson's Creek, Interior

National Battlefield Thursday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke discussed sexual harassment problems at national parks. Talking to Wilson's Creek employees, Zinke said, "There is a problem and I have a couple investigations on my desk that are credible about sexual harassment and intimidation." During a question and answer period, Wilson's Creek employee, Connie Langum "stood up and pressed the Secretary how exactly he is going to fix the problem." The article says that "she was relieved to hear Secretary Zike's honesty and willingness to try to change that culture."

**Secretary Zinke Declares October National Hunting And Fishing Month.**

KAIT-TV Jonesboro, AR (9/21, Weston) reports that days before National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 23 Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "declared October will officially be recognized as National Hunting and Fishing Month at the Department." The order "comes on the heels of several major sportsmen actions from Interior including Wednesday's announcement of the addition of 600 acres of land in Arizona's Santa Teresa Mountains to make Wilderness Areas accessible for hunting and fishing." Zinke said, "Hunters and anglers are the backbone of wildlife and habitat conservation in America, and they contribute billions of dollars to conservation. From my perspective, the more sportsmen we have in the woods and waters, the better our wildlife and land will be. Formally recognizing the contributions of hunters and anglers to wildlife and habitat conservation is long overdue." The declaration was signed Wednesday night at the grand opening of the Wonders of Wildlife Museum in Springfield, Missouri.

**Maryland Proposes \$9 Billion Plan To Relieve Traffic Congestion.**

Reuters (9/21, Shepardson) reports on Thursday, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) proposed "an ambitious \$9 billion public-private partnership" to "add four new lanes to the Capital Beltway (I-495)...and four new lanes on Interstate-270." Hogan said he wants "private developers to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain" the new lanes. Hogan started this process during a recent meeting with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The Washington Post (9/21, McCartney) reports the proposal "would also widen the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD 295) by four toll lanes after taking over ownership from the federal government." Under Hogan's proposal, "only the new lanes would have tolls; the others would remain free." Hogan said "the plan would not cost taxpayers any money" because of the private-sector involvement; "instead, he said, because of the toll revenue, the state could potentially reap billions of dollars of additional funds."

The Baltimore Sun (9/21, Cox) quotes Zinke spokesman Alex Hinson as saying, "Secretary Zinke and Governor Hogan recently had a wide ranging conversation about a number of issues of mutual interest. No decisions related to issues involving the Baltimore-Washington Parkway were made during that meeting." Hogan said, "It was actually the Department of Interior's decision to" hand over ownership of the B-W Parkway, adding, "we're happy to take it from them." Hogan said the Interior "doesn't love [the road] because they're in the park business and not the road business, and their intention is to dispose of all roads that they have under their control."

Additional coverage is provided by WBAL-AM Baltimore Baltimore (9/21, Waldman) online and the Baltimore Business Journal (9/21, Neibauer, Wilen).

**White House Begins First In Series Of Meetings To Shape Climate Goals.**



A “White House representative” has confirmed to the Washington Examiner (9/21, Siciliano) that the White House on Thursday began “the first of a series of meetings...that will lead to the reshaping of the Trump administration’s climate change goals and policy.” The spokesman described the meeting between “the White House and officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Energy Department, State Department and the Department of Interior,” as “a forward-looking meeting on strategy and how to prioritize the administration’s climate goals and objectives moving forward.” The spokesman added, “This particular meeting was more big picture strategy,” and its purpose was to bring together “a whole group of stakeholders ... that are involved in climate issues and looking ahead to what policy initiatives we may put in place.”

### **Key Republican Revives Bill To Strip Bureau Of Indian Affairs Of Recognition Powers.**

The Nation Sun News (9/21) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop is “once again pushing a bill that requires all tribes seeking federal recognition to go through Congress.” Bishop, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, “introduced H.R. 3744, the Tribal Recognition Act last week.” While the legislation “establishes standards for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to research petitions submitted by tribes seeking recognition, it bars the executive branch from making decisions on those petitions.”

### **Appeals Court Throws Out Case On Obama Fracking Rule, Citing Trump Repeal Effort.**

The Washington Examiner (9/21, Siciliano) reports that the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a case on whether the federal government is able to regulate fracking under an Obama Administration rule. The court dismissed the case “based on the Trump administration’s move to repeal the Bureau of Land Management regulation.” The court dismissal read, “Our proceeding to address whether the district court erred in invalidating the ... fracking regulation when the [Bureau of Land Management] has now commenced rescinding that same regulation appears to be a very wasteful use of limited judicial resources.”

### **DeVos: Eisenhower A ‘Gorgeous Memorial’.**

The Daily Caller (9/21, Phippen) reports that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “endorsed the proposed design of the widely panned design for the Eisenhower Memorial, saying the expansive monument ‘looks to be a gorgeous memorial.’” DeVos “prepared a video message in support of the memorial for a meeting of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (USCFA) where architect Frank Gehry’s latest design received unanimous approval.”

### **Trump Says He Will Visit Puerto Rico To Survey Damage From Hurricane Maria.**

During a meeting at the UN General Assembly Thursday, President Trump said “he plans to visit Puerto Rico to personally assess the devastation from Hurricane Maria,” the Washington Times (9/21, Miller) reports. Trump, who “did not say when he would make the visit,” said, “Puerto Rico is in very, very tough shape. Their electrical grid is destroyed. It wasn’t in great shape to start with.” Earlier Thursday, Trump “declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico that made federal funds available to those affected by the storm.” A Washington Post (9/21) calls Trump’s disaster declaration for Puerto Rico “a welcome and needed step as it will make federal assistance available to Puerto Ricans affected by the storm,” and adds that his announcement that he will visit the island is “equally welcome” because “in doing so he sets an example for the rest of the country.”

Vice President Pence said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/21), "With regard to Puerto Rico, we have people coming ashore now who were pre-positioned on ships. We're about to deliver eight million meals over eight million liters of water, 31 industrial generators. We are there with the people of Puerto Rico as President Trump has said and we are going to stay there until Puerto Rico and all the good people there build all the way back."

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (9/21, De Córdoba, Campo-Flores, De Avila) reports on the damage Maria left in Puerto Rico and says officials have warned residents that a difficult road to recovery lies ahead. According to Abner Gómez, executive director of Puerto Rico's emergency-management agency, residents will likely have to do without aid for 72 hours, due to the severity of the damage and the demands on government resources. A front-page story in the Washington Post (9/21, A1, Schmidt, Somashekhar, Zezima) reports that on Thursday, "emergency management teams and the National Guard rescued dozens of residents, taking them to nearby shelters. But many more remained stuck in their homes with almost no cellphone reception, some of them waiting on their rooftops."

**'We Need Help': U.S. Virgin Islands Governor On Devastation After Maria And Irma.**

In an interview on WBUR-FM Boston (9/21), U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp talked about the recovery effort following the passage of Hurricane Maria. Mapp said, "We need help. With our FEMA partners and our cruise ship partners, we're bringing in a lot of food, water, tarpaulins, personal hygiene packs, cots and blankets. That's really the immediacy of the need. We're asking folks who can to go to USVI Recovery and they can donate there." He added, "I was able to speak to our Administrator William Brock Long of FEMA, and had a very good conversation with him, as well as the Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, as we coordinate the relief for St. Croix."

**Enviros Win Suit Forcing DOI To Inspect Va. Coal Mine.**

Law360 (9/21, Phillis) reports that "a Virginia federal judge on Wednesday gave environmental groups a quick win in their request for an inspection of a Red River Coal Co. mine where elevated levels of selenium were recorded nearby, saying that the Department of the Interior ignored key data when it denied the request." Judge James P. Jones "granted the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards and the Sierra Club's summary judgment bid that sought a federal inspection of the Greater Wise No. 1 Mine."

**INTERIOR WHISTLEBLOWER WINS COURAGE AWARD:** Joel Clement, who filed a whistleblower complaint in July alleging he'd been transferred within Interior to prevent him from discussing climate change, received the Callaway Award for Civic Courage on Thursday stemming from those actions. "I hope the recognition I receive for blowing the whistle on the Trump administration inspires others within the federal civil service to do the same; the continued health and safety of Americans depends upon it," he said in a statement.

**FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

No Items were cleared for the FR on Thursday.

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison  
Department of the Interior  
202.208.1694

**To:** Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Natalie Davis[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]

**From:** Mashburn, Lori

**Sent:** 2017-10-24T12:53:23-04:00

**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Report for Cabinet Affairs 10/24/2017

**Received:** 2017-10-24T12:54:17-04:00

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 10/24/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

### **STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

TODAY: Bat Week Proclamation Signing

- Quarterly Meeting with Majority Members of U.S. House Natural Resources Committee & separate meeting with Minority Members
- Remarks at OTR Conservative Dinner

THIS WEEK:

10/25 DC – Meeting with USAID Administrator

- Remarks to Weyrich Lunch
- Meeting with Representative Cramer (ND)
  - o Red River Valley Water Supply Project
- Meeting with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos

10/26 DC – Meeting with Danish Minister for Energy, Utilities, and Climate, Mr. Lars Christian

- American Heroes Roundtable
- Meeting with Tom Hutchison

10/27 DC – Call with Governor Mary Fallin (OK)

- Meeting with the President

### **STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in DC conducting internal meetings

### **MEDIA TODAY**

#### **Secretary Zinke Announces Largest Oil & Gas Lease Sale in U.S. History**

*March 2018 sale to offer 76.9 million acres in Gulf of Mexico*

**New Orleans** – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department is proposing the largest oil and gas lease sale ever held in the United States --76,967,935 acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The proposed region-wide lease sale, offering an area about the size of New Mexico, is scheduled for March 2018 and includes all available unleased areas on the Gulf's Outer Continental Shelf, surpassing last year's region-wide lease sale by about one million acres.

"In today's low-price energy environment, providing the offshore industry access to the maximum amount of opportunities possible is part of our strategy to spur local and regional economic dynamism and job creation and a pillar of President Trump's plan to make the United States energy dominant," **Secretary Zinke said**. "And the economic terms proposed for this sale include a range of incentives to encourage diligent development and ensure a fair return to taxpayers."

Proposed Lease Sale 250, which will be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the second offshore sale under the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. Lease Sale 249, held in New Orleans last August, received \$121 million in high bids. In addition to the high bids and rental payments, the Department will receive royalty payments on any future production from these leases. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease revenues are directed to the U.S. Treasury, Gulf Coast states, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund.

"In order to strengthen America's energy dominance, we must anticipate and plan for our needs for decades to come," **said Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources**. "The administration's decision to move forward with the largest offshore lease sale in our nation's history is a key part of that effort. Whether in Alaska or the Gulf of Mexico, we should all support responsible development because it creates high-paying jobs, strengthens national security, and keeps energy affordable for our families and businesses."

"President Trump's team is following through on their commitment to advancing America's energy independence," **said Senator Roger Wicker**. "Unlike the previous administration, this one understands that expanded offshore energy development benefits working families, consumers, and our national security. This is a win for Mississippi and the entire country."

"President Trump and his administration are following through on their promise to end the war on American energy," **said Senator Bill Cassidy**. "Investing in energy creates better jobs with better benefits for working families, strengthens our national security and strengthens our energy independence."

"This is great news that our oil and gas industry in Louisiana sorely needs. This is the largest sale in U.S. history, and it will create jobs and bolster our state and national economy," **said Senator John Kennedy**. "Our Louisiana workers are ready to go back to work."

"President Donald Trump made clear his desire to ensure Americans can use our own natural resources to produce the energy vital to our economy and national security," **said Alabama Governor Kay Ivey**. "As he has done time and again, President Trump has proven to the people of Alabama that he is a man of his word, and we are grateful to him and to Secretary Ryan Zinke for their determination to open a vast tract of American waters to oil and gas exploration. This decision is not only in the best interest of all Americans, it allows Gulf Coast states, like Alabama, to utilize our natural resources not only to provide energy for our nation, but increased economic opportunities for our people."

"Mississippi welcomes Secretary Zinke's action to carry out the president's vision for American energy dominance," **said Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant**. "This will strengthen our state's status as a leader in oil and gas exploration and create good jobs for hardworking Mississippians."

"If we're serious about energy dominance and long-term energy affordability, we must create certainty about future access in the Outer Continental Shelf," **said Congressman Rob Bishop, Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources**. "Secretary Zinke should be commended for his leadership to create that certainty and realign Interior as a partner for industry to advance responsible energy development. This is a welcomed announcement on that front. Congressionally, we will continue to move forward on a comprehensive overhaul of onshore and offshore federal lands energy policy to help Interior expand even greater access, streamline permitting and increase revenues to both states and the U.S. Treasury."

"Secretary Zinke's announcement is welcome news and I look forward to continuing to work with the administration to put consumer's interests first while promoting job creation and modernizing our nation's energy infrastructure," **said Congressman Greg Walden, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce**. "The president and his administration have placed energy independence and security at the top of their agenda, and this committee has been leading the way in examining policies that seek to streamline siting and permitting of the nation's oil and gas pipelines."

"President Trump has stated that he wants our country to exert 'energy dominance' throughout the world, and this lease sale is another bold step in that direction," **said House Majority Whip Steve Scalise**. "I applaud today's announcement by Secretary Ryan Zinke to offer the largest offshore oil and gas lease sale in U.S. history. My constituents in Southeast Louisiana will be leading the way in this exploration and development that will create good jobs and kickstart more economic growth. This bold action helps us continue fighting for the responsible development of our natural resources that bring critical dollars to restore our coast."

"As a long-time advocate for opening up more of the Gulf of Mexico, it's refreshing to work with an Administration that understands it's true energy potential," **said**

**Congressman Pete Olson.** "Oil production, when done safely and responsibly, is a win for Texas and the Gulf Coast economy, and adds to America's energy security. I applaud Secretary Zinke for moving forward with this lease sale and hope these opportunities to tap into our energy potential continue."

"Secretary Zinke's announcement of the largest oil and gas lease sale in our country's history is welcome news. The oil and gas industry provides thousands of direct and indirect jobs to the people of Mississippi," **said Congressman Gregg Harper.** "This lease sale has the potential to create new opportunities for our state and nation as advances in technology continue to make the United States a world leader in natural resource production."

"I applaud Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior for their efforts to spur energy production and support communities along the Gulf Coast. Revenue from these leases will be a huge boost for Gulf states, like Alabama, and will help us continue conservation and preservation of our treasured coastal areas," **said Congressman Bradley Byrne.** "Through developments like this, we can ensure American energy dominance and make life better for Gulf Coast families."

The estimated amount of resources projected to be developed as a result of the proposed region-wide lease sale ranges from 0.21 to 1.12 billion barrels of oil and from 0.55 to 4.42 trillion cubic feet of gas. Most of the activity (up to 83% of future production) from the proposed lease sale is expected to occur in the Central Planning Area.

Proposed Lease Sale 250 includes 14,375 unleased blocks, located from 3 to 230 miles offshore, in the Gulf's Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from 9 to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the Congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

"American energy production can be competitive while remaining safe and environmentally sound," **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor for Energy Policy at Interior.** "People need jobs, the Gulf Coast states need revenue, and Americans do not want to be dependent on foreign oil. We have heard their message loud and clear."

The lease sale terms include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region. The terms and conditions for Lease Sale 250 in the Proposed Notice of Sale are not final. Different terms and conditions may be employed in the Final Notice of Sale, which will be published at least 30 days before the sale.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) estimates that the OCS contains about 90 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 327 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable gas. The Gulf of Mexico OCS,

covering about 160 million acres, has technically recoverable resources of over 48 billion barrels of oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of gas.

All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 250 are detailed in the Proposed Notice of Sale (PNOS) information package, which is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-250/>. Copies of the PNOS maps can be requested from BOEM's Gulf of Mexico Region's Public Information Unit at 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123, or at 800-200-GULF (4853).

The Notice of Availability of the PNOS will be available for inspection in the Federal Register on October 26, 2017 at: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection>.

**WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Monday, 10/23)

**Press Inquiries:**

- E&E News: (Brittany Patterson)—**REQUEST**—Various questions about the future of the coal power plant Navajo Generating Station and a meeting the Secretary had with Patrick Soon-Shiong.—**RESPONSE**—TBD
- POLITICO (Esther Whieldon)—**REQUEST**--I'm writing a short story on how the Interior appears to be moving forward with a number of Murkowski's/Alaska's priorities despite Zinke's call with Murkowski in July over her vote on the healthcare bill. Examples include Sweeney nomination, movement to allow seismic testing on ANWR, work on the land swap for Izembek, the call for nominations on the NPR-A and work on the five-year offshore drilling plan. To what extent are these actions meant to butter up Murkowski to win her support on key issues on the hill vs the extent to which the priorities of the admin and Murkowski align? A response today by 5 would be appreciated. —**RESPONSE**--  
The Secretary works with a number of Senators on both sides of the aisle to advance shared priorities, such as the restoration of the Everglades (Sen. Rubio), ensuring Swayne County received long-overdue funds from the Department (Sen. Tillis), and opening access to the Sabinoso Wilderness Area (Senator Udall).
- POLITICO (Esther Whieldon) – **REQUEST** – Update on USFWS seismic work on drilling in ANWR – **RESPONSE** – Nothing new to report on ANWR
- POLITICO (Ben Lefebvre) & E&E – **REQUEST** - I saw this letter from Louisiana Gov. Edwards that raises the question of whether GOMESA disbursements for FY 2017 may be about half of what the state originally expected. Can anyone at Interior discuss whether those estimates are correct and, if so, why? – **RESPONSE** – TBD
- POLITICO (Ben Lefebvre) – **REQUEST** - Chief of Staff Scott Hommel indicated on his OGE form 278 that his wife makes no income over \$1,000 a year, correct? How much money does Lucretia Hommel make, if any, from doing interior design work for Kimberly Bellissimo's homes in New Jersey and downtown Washington D.C.? Is it a non-profit, or does she make more than \$1,000 a year

from this business? How much money does Lucretia Hommel make a year overall doing interior design for her business, Snobz? How much does she make selling furniture from her Web site, [snobz.co](http://snobz.co)? Is there a way to break that down to see how much money she makes, if any, selling Bellissimo's furniture on the Web site? Did anyone in Interior's ethics office discuss with Hommel how to fill out OGE form 278? Official DOI business would be to see whether the DOI Chief of Staff has a false statement on his OGE form. - **RESPONSE** – The Department cannot comment on personal or business matters. No, he didn't (referring to allegations of false statements).

- NBC (Clark Dartunorro) – **REQUEST** - I want to know about the process regarding the program and what and where exactly those resources have been dispersed following the President's Aug. 28 executive order on the department's program (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/08/28/presidential-executive-order-restoring-state-tribal-and-local-law>) that provides resources to local law enforcement agencies. Also, I wanted to know how many applications, if any, have been received total and how many approved and rejected and background on the application process. – **RESPONSE** – TBD

### **Top Stories**

- **Washington Examiner:** [Trump administration scrambles to save largest coal plant in the West](#)
- **NY Times:** [Where Did The Napa Fire Begin? Investigators Scour The Ashes.](#)
- **KQED-FM:** [Federal Agency Promoted Ranger Five Months After His Gun Was Stolen And Used In Steinle Killing.](#)

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- This week, Interior will announce oil and gas lease sale #250. This will be the largest acreage sale in the history of the Gulf of Mexico
- This week, Interior will release the Energy Burdens Report
- This week, Interior will announce an oil and gas lease sale in Alaska at the National Petroleum Reserve
- Tuesday Secretary Zinke will host two hour-long meetings with the House Natural Resources Committee Rs and Ds
- Tuesday Secretary Zinke will join conservative reporters for an off the record dinner
- Thursday Interior will host an event with VSOs to improve coordination with and services for veterans (open press)
- Friday the Secretary meets with POTUS

### **AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD October 18 thru October 26, 2017 (Submitted 10/18)**



### **Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews**

- **October 24:** Secretary Zinke is speaking at the OTR Conservative Reporter Dinner, a dinner with leading conservative journalists hosted by Jamie Weinstein and Michelle Fields.
- **October 24:** Secretary Zinke is signing a proclamation declaring October 24-31 "Bat Week." 2017 marks the 3rd annual international Bat Week, when federal and state agencies and NGO partners raise awareness about the importance of bats to a healthy environment and economy. Secretary Purdue has also signed a proclamation.
- **October 25:** Secretary Zinke is addressing the Weyrich Lunch meeting, a weekly forum for reporting to conservative leaders. He will speak about DOI priorities and achievements.
- **October 26:** Secretary Zinke is hosting and American Heroes Roundtable discussion and listening session with disabled veterans who are sportsmen and sportswomen. Focus will be on providing better access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreation.
- **October 27:** Secretary Zinke is recording a Veterans Day video message for DOI employees.

### **Department-level Release**

- **October 24: DOI/USDA Joint Release:** DOI and USDA will issue joint releases and Secretarial Proclamations kicking off Bat Week. Other events: FWS will join USGS, USFS and Organization for Bat Conservation, and other partners at two congressional events on Capitol Hill to commemorate BatWeek 2017. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and FWS will also announce funding up to \$1 million for the first round of grants to fight white-nose syndrome under the Bats for the Future Fund (BFF).

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **October TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others
- **October TBD: FWS News Bulletin:** FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **October 23 – 25:** BLM-CO Royal Gorge Field Office, CO Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service will hold three public meetings to discuss plans to

revise the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area River Management Plan. Discussion will focus on current boating capacities and existing facilities along the Arkansas River, from Leadville to Lake Pueblo State Park.

- **October 23 – 24:** The Sage Grouse Task Force is scheduled to meet in Denver to discuss any additional issues or concerns raised by stakeholders, specific proposed policy changes, and any remaining issues that may require a plan amendment in connection with Secretarial Order 3353.
- **October 24: National BLM Release:** BLM-NV will host a competitive geothermal lease sale for 20 parcels, located in the Battle Mountain, Carson City, Elko and Winnemucca districts, containing 38,208.46 acres for geothermal leasing. This will be the first online geothermal lease sale for Nevada. This lease sale is not expected to be controversial. At this time, the BLM cannot predict the level of bidding interest.
- **October 24:** BLM-WY Worland Field Office will host a public meeting in Hyattville, Wyoming, in support of the 30-day scoping period for the Alkali Creek Reservoir Project Environmental Impact Statement.
- **October 24:** BLM-WY Cody Field Office will host public meetings in Cody and Lovell, Wyoming, to gather input for a cave and karst management plan that will address the natural, undisturbed ecosystems within caves, recreational caving, scientific research and surface uses above caves. Local media may attend.
- **October 24:** BLM-CA State Director Jerry Perez and Desert District Manager Beth Ransel will meet with Brigadier General Kevin Killea, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Meeting topics will include implementation of base expansion and land transfer, renewable energy, desert tortoises, recreation and off-highway vehicle access.
- **October 25:** BLM-CA State Director Jerry Perez, Desert District Manager Beth Ransel and Barstow Field Manager Katrina Symons will meet with officials at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range. Issues to be discussed include implementation of base expansion and land transfer, renewable energy, desert tortoises, recreation and off-highway vehicle access.
- **October 26:** BLM-AK Acting State Director Karen Mouritsen will attend the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee meeting at the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center, in Anchorage.
- **October 26:** BLM-WY Cody Field Office will host a public meeting in Shell, Wyoming, in support of the 45-day scoping period for the Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project Environmental Impact Statement.
- **October 26:** BLM-WY Casper Field Office will hold a public meeting about tribal consultation for oil and gas permits in Converse County, Wyoming

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- **October 24: National News Release: USGS will issue a release regarding** a new web-based tool that provides users with unprecedented detail of mountains worldwide. USGS partnered with the University of Bern (Switzerland)

and ESRI Group on Earth Observations. Tool will be unveiled at GEO conference.

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **October 26 - November 1:** A six-member team from the Bureau of Reclamation will visit Taipei, Taiwan, to participate in the 30th anniversary meeting between Reclamation and Taiwan's Water Resources Agency. Reclamation serves as the designated technical representative of the American Institute in Taiwan, the official arm of the U.S. Department of State in Taiwan.

### **CONGRESSIONAL**

**UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislative hearing on S. 1870, Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act 2017; S. 1953, Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of 2010; and S. \_\_, Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act. Witness will Bryan Rice, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Timing:** October 25, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee is set to host a legislative hearing on Rep. Don Young's H.R. 215, American Indian Empowerment Act of 2017. Witness is John Tahsuda, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

**Timing:** October 25, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board = 61

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor

Overall:

- Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 7 in process

- NC-SES: 24 of 44 onboard; 2 starting; 3 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 4 Announced; 15 of 17 Submitted to PPO

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

#### **Accepted:**

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

#### **Outstanding Invitations in Process:**

10/28 Remarks at Washington International Horse Show DC)

10/29 Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Island (DC)

11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)

11/9 – National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)

11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

#### **Declining**

10/26 - Montana Chamber Annual Meeting (Great Falls, MT)

10/28 – Cattle Producers of Washington Annual Meeting (Airway Heights, WA)

10/30-11/3 – International Mining and Resources Conference (Melbourne, Australia)

10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

11/1 - 2017 SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Festival (Jackson Hole, WY)

11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt

11/8 – WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield, MO)

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** (new)

### **Hurricane Response/Recovery:**

USGS had 22 (+9) personnel in the field assessing damage and repairing gages under their own authorities. Under Mission Assignments, USGS had four (+3) personnel performing data analysis and one additional person performing remote analysis of imagery to identify significant landslide impacts in Puerto Rico. USGS has five personnel that will deploy to Puerto Rico on October 25 to provide site analysis and technical assistance under a Mission Assignment. USGS also reports that 10 of the 12 streamgages that were destroyed during Hurricane Maria have been rebuilt.

OEPC is coordinating with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), NPS, USFWS, the Office of the Solicitor, and OEM to resolve issues surrounding stranded vessels on DOI land in the Caribbean. The primary issue of concern is salvage and removal of vessels on federal land that are not eligible for ESF #10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response) funding through FEMA.

The Department of Homeland Security reports that, in Puerto Rico, power has been restored to approximately 18 (-4)-percent of customers and the expectation is that 95-percent of Puerto Rico will be restored by December 15. Potable water has been restored to more than 72 (no change)-percent of clients served by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. Approximately 3,800 personnel from the Puerto Rico National Guard and Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) are concentrating on commodity distribution, debris clearance, and medical missions. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, there has been no change in the number of residents being serviced by grid power (St. Thomas 29-percent, St. Croix 1.6-percent, St. John 0-percent); however, restoration efforts will begin on St. John next week. The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority estimates 90-percent of the power will be restored by November 23.

### **Port Aransas, Texas Fatal Barge Fire and Oil Spill:**

The USCG, the Texas General Land Office, and Bouchard Transportation representatives continue to respond to a barge that caught fire on October 20, three miles off the jetties of Port Aransas, Texas. The barge has been lightened of some cargo, which has raised the bow of the vessel, and while the pipe previously leaking remains open, there is no leakage occurring. There is some sheen near the vessel, but none in, or north, of the ship channel, which has been reopened to outbound traffic. The total volume of oil discharged to the water remains unknown at this time. Approximately 2,000 barrels were accounted for, but it is uncertain what remains in the void space, what was contained around the barge, and what was transported away from the site. Combined observations from Shoreline Cleanup Assessment

Technique (SCAT) teams, cleanup teams, and bird surveys show oiling on the southern end of Mustang Island extending to portions of North Padre Island. The Incident Command Post (ICP) is establishing an operational tempo and focusing on improved information flow as various subject area specialists arrive.

#### **Fatal Shooting, Standing Rock Reservation, ND:**

Overnight, on the Standing Rock Reservation of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota, a fatal shooting was reported. Around 9:00 p.m. EDT, an individual called the BIA dispatch office from a local gas station stating a suspect had fired a shotgun in an unknown direction and fled the scene in a vehicle. BIA Law Enforcement personnel executed a felony stop on the vehicle and reported shots fired. The suspect was wounded and later pronounced deceased. No BIA Law Enforcement personnel were injured in this incident. This incident remains under investigation and no additional information is available at this time.

#### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)

##### **GOP Senators Propose Wildfire Management Bill.**

The Hill (10/23, Cama) reports that draft legislation unveiled Monday by Republican "Sens. John Barrasso (Wyo.), Orrin Hatch (Utah), John Thune (S.D.) and Steve Daines (Mont.)" is "aimed at preventing and mitigating wildfires by making it easier to cut down and remove trees and brush." The Hill says that "Republicans have long complained that when land management agencies like the Forest Service have to go through the arduous process of consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service to allow logging in areas where endangered species live or are nearby, it delays the process of removing wood and brush that contributes to fires." The Hill adds that "provisions of the bill would reduce the obligations of the Forest Service to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service," and "direct the Forest Service and Interior Department to create certain exclusions from environmental review for wood and brush removal."

**Zinke's 'Scam Pac' Pals:** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has worked for years with a group of Washington political operatives who have been accused by fellow conservatives of raising money on false pretenses, Pro's Ben Lefebvre and Nick Juliano report. Their investigation sheds new light on Zinke's fundraising practices as a member of Congress and since joining Interior. In his first month on the job, Zinke flew to the Virgin Islands at taxpayers' expense for a series of official events tied to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the territory's handover to the U.S. — and while there he squeezed in a personal detour to attend a fundraiser for the Virgin Islands Republican Party. That group, known as VIGOP, is one of several "scam PACs" run by Washington-area political consultant Scott Mackenzie, according to numerous critics that include some Republicans in the Virgin Islands. **Prominent GOP politicians have recoiled** from working with Mackenzie and firms that have been linked to him, such as ForthRight Strategy, formerly known as Base Connect and BMW Direct before that. Texas Rep. Will Hurd says they "are preying on seniors," and former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli filed a lawsuit accusing Mackenzie and

others of running a "national fundraising scam." ForthRight CEO Kimberly Bellissimo introduced Zinke to the VIGOP in 2015, when she accompanied him on a trip to the island chain. **But not Zinke.** He substantially increased his spending on firms linked to ForthRight between his first race for Montana's sole House seat in 2014 and his re-election two years later, when he spent nearly \$3 million on direct mail fundraising firms operating out of the same address as ForthRight between his congressional campaign and leadership political action committee, SEAL PAC. And he provided a testimonial for the firm's website praising the "professional as well as personal relationship we have developed over many years." **SEAL PAC seemed to operate on the same model** as VIGOP and other groups Mackenzie has run, raising huge sums from small donors and spending the vast majority of its money on fundraising consultants. The group raised \$2 million of its \$3 million haul last cycle in increments of \$200 or less, and it spent \$2.6 million on overhead, far more than the \$118,000 it sent to other congressional committees. That made it an outlier among other leadership PACs, which typically court high-dollar donors and allow lawmakers to spread contributions among their colleagues. **There is no evidence Zinke did anything illegal**, but his relationship with the consultants and PACs is raising eyebrows. "To say the least, this is highly unusual," said Karl Sandstrom, a former Democratic FEC commissioner now at the law firm Perkins Coie.

**Zinke's Super Secret Hill Meeting:** Zinke is scheduled to meet this afternoon with House Natural Resources Committee members in a room typically reserved for issues involving a high-security clearance. Zinke will meet separately with committee Democrats and Republicans and copies of invitations obtained by ME say he will be "raising a confidential matter" and only members and staff with top-secret level clearance may attend.

### **Deputy Takes Bigger Role While Department Awaits Nominee.**

Greenwire (10/23, Brown, Yachnin) reports Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift indicated that "Casey Hammond, the current deputy assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, will temporarily help Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Katharine MacGregor oversee various Interior agencies." Greenwire says Hammond will be "pulling double duty as the Senate has yet to confirm a permanent assistant secretary for land and minerals management." By "signing secretarial order No. 3357 on Tuesday, Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt declared 'an immediate need for additional executive-level supervision and direction with respect to'" the BLM, BOEM, BSEE, and the OSMRE. Swift said, "The Senate minority is dragging its feet on getting qualified nominees like Joe Balash in leadership roles here at Interior. Rather than let that slow our progress, we are utilizing team members across the bureaus to move the ball forward for the American people."

### **Offshore Oil Drilling May Be Coming To A Coastline Near You.**

In EcoWatch (10/23, Stauffer), Surfrider Foundation Environmental Director Pete Stauffer predicted the expansion of offshore oil drilling in the US. Stauffer cites how

“following an executive order earlier this year, Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke announced plans to revise the nation’s Five-Year Offshore Drilling Plan, threatening the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Arctic Ocean with the prospect of new offshore oil rigs.” Stauffer attacks these plans, writing, “The drilling, rigs and transportation tankers required for offshore drilling release a brew of toxic chemicals and leaked oil.” Stauffer urges readers to “submit comments to the Department of the Interior and boldly voice their opposition to offshore drilling.”

### **Signed, Sealed, Delivered.**

The Politico Morning Energy (10/23, Adragna) briefing reports that BOEM “approved a key step of Deepwater Wind’s 144-megawatt Revolution Wind project that will enable the company to collect the biological and wind performance data it needs to file a construction plan.” The briefing adds, “Massachusetts is slated to pick the winning contracts in July, and Deepwater Wind has said it could bring the project online by the end of 2023.”

### **Spending The President’s Money.**

Greenwire (10/23, Hotakainen) reports that maintenance mechanic “Kenny Klipp appreciates that President Trump donated his first-quarter salary to the National Park Service,” and hopes it will enable him “to join the team of construction workers that will restore the historic Newcomer House at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg using the president’s donation of \$78,333 to pay for part of the project.” NPS Historic Preservation Training Center Superintendent Moss Rudley “said the renovation project originally set for 2019 has moved to a faster track, with work scheduled to begin next spring and some windows getting removed as early as February.” The article outlines the history of the Newcomer House.

### **Smithsonian Museum To Display Post From Dakota Access Pipeline Protests.**

The AP (10/23, Nicholson) reports that the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC will be displaying a 12-foot-tall mile-maker post, which was built by Dakota Access pipeline protesters to show how far people traveled to protest the project. Hickory Edwards donated the post to the museum, which he erected in September of 2016.

### **BLM Seeks Public Comment On Greater Sage-Grouse.**

The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (10/23) reports that the BLM “announced opportunities for the public to comment and share issues on the agency’s consideration of potential amendments to its Nevada and California land use plans, specifically elements of land use plans that address greater sage-grouse conservation.” The BLM announced meetings in “Northern Nevada, including one slated for Elko on Nov. 8.”

### **Plan Will Keep Most Of Arizona National Monument Open To Shooters.**



KTAR-FM Glendale, AZ (10/23) reports online that the BLM “last week recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters.” The latest plan, published “Friday in the Federal Register, calls for making 11 percent of the monument’s land off-limits to shooting,” although “hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits.” BLM Arizona spokesman Adam Eggers said, “This is by no means the end of the process. ... Nothing has been finalized.” He is paraphrased as indicating “Friday started a 30-day protest period for the public to voice concerns or support for the proposal, as well as a 60-day legal review by the governor.”

### **Murder Trial Starts For Man Who Stoked US Immigration Debate.**

The AP (10/23, Elias) reports that alleged murderer “Garcia Zarate’s trial began Monday with Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia showing jurors the handgun that is accused of firing and said a ballistics expert will testify that the only way to fire it is to pull the trigger.” The AP notes that the handgun belonged to a BLM “ranger who reported that it had been stolen from his parked car in San Francisco a week before Steinle was shot.” The AP says the “shooting touched off a political furor during last year’s presidential race, with President Donald Trump citing the killing of 32-year-old Kate Steinle as a reason to toughen U.S. immigration policies.”

### **Tribes Seek Reparations Over Oregon Site Destroyed For Highway Expansion.**

The AP (10/23) reports that Justice Department attorneys “asked a federal judge Monday to dismiss a lawsuit filed by tribal elders who say a sacred site was destroyed to expand a highway near Oregon’s Mount Hood.” Justice Department attorney Ben Schiffman “said in a telephone hearing that the elders were not substantially burdened by the expansion of U.S. 26 and lacked standing to sue.” According to the AP, “the elders from Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde claim the Federal Highway Administration violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act,” and “their attorney Stephanie Barclay said the government in 2008 could have widened the road without bulldozing a site that included a stone altar and medicinal plants.” The AP notes that “rather than money, the Native Americans are asking for a historical marker, a rebuilt altar and for the planting of new trees and plants.”

### **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

#### **Notices submitted to the Federal Register for Monday, October 23rd:**

REG0007558 BIA Indian Gaming; Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact Taking Effect in the State of New Mexico -- This Notice announces that the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the Pueblo of Pojoaque and the State of New Mexico is taking effect. Notice 10/23/2017

REG0007460 FWS Removing Textual Descriptions of Critical Habitat Boundaries for Plants on the Hawaiian Islands (50 CFR 17.99) -- This rule will remove the textual

descriptions of the critical habitat boundaries from certain entries at 50 CFR 17.99 (plants on the Hawaiian Islands) that have maps sufficient to stand as the official delineation of the critical habitat designation. Final Rule 10/23/2017

REG0007487 FWS Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit; Draft Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the California Tiger Salamander; Phillips 66 Line 300 Project, Santa Barbara County, California -- FWS has received an application from Phillips 66 Pipeline, LLC for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. The permit would authorize take of the federally endangered California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara distinct population segment), incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the Phillips 66 Line 300 Project draft low-effect habitat conservation plan. Notice 10/23/2017

REG0007523 FWS 12-Month Finding on a Petition to List the Western Glacier Stonefly; Proposed Threatened Species Status for Meltwater Lednian Stonefly and Western Glacier Stonefly -- FWS is reopening the comment period on the October 4, 2016, proposed rule in order to accept comment on new information about the range and genetics of the species. Proposed Rule 10/23/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison  
Department of the Interior  
202.208.1694

**To:** Domenech, Douglas[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2017-08-24T11:51:04-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: EMBARGOED: Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House  
**Received:** 2017-08-24T11:52:06-04:00

Adding Heather and Alex for adding/making edits. Thx!

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On Aug 24, 2017, at 11:41 AM, Domenech, Douglas <[douglas\\_domenech@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

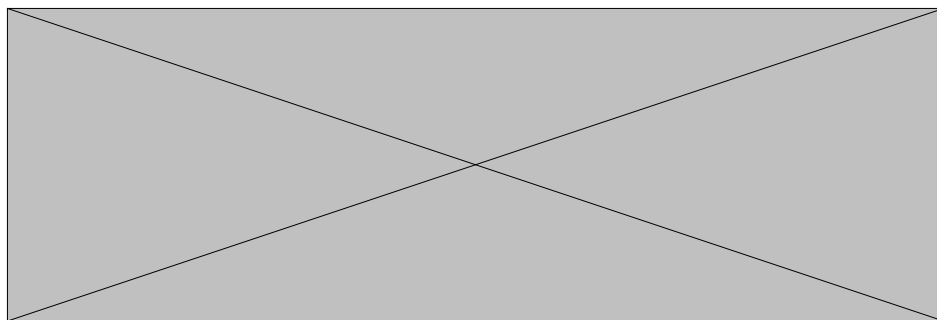
Just a suggestion.  
"The review was initiated by President Trump..."

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

On Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 11:15 AM, Rigas, Laura <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi all -- here is an EMBARGOED copy of the release which will be issued at 1pm, plus attached talking points for internal purposes. There will be a link to the Executive Summary in the release but we have pasted it below. Thanks!



EMBARGOED UNTIL 1PM ET

Date: August 24, 2017

Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House

**WASHINGTON** – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke sent a draft report to the president which included his findings and recommendations on national monuments that were under review as a result of the April 26, 2017 [executive order](#). The report summary can be read **\*\*here\*\***. The extensive 120-day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback (including a virtual tour of a marine monument), and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov). Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, Tribal, and non-government stakeholders including multiple Tribal listening sessions.

The review was implemented by President Trump in order to restore trust in the multiple-use mission of the Department and to give rural communities a voice in federal land management decisions. In order to make the process transparent and give local residents and stakeholders a voice, the Secretary [announced](#) on May 5, 2017 the opening up of a formal comment period for the review, as the President directed. This was the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

“No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The recommendations I sent to the president on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation.”

While traveling across the country, Secretary Zinke met with hundreds of local stakeholders and heard concerns about some national monuments negatively impacting things like local revenue from federal lands, agriculture, private property rights, public access to land, traditional Tribal uses of the land, and timber harvesting.

Over the 120-day review, Secretary Zinke visited eight national monument sites in six states:

- Bears Ears (UT)
- Grand Staircase Escalante (UT)

- Katahdin Woods and Waters (ME)
- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts
- Cascade Siskiyou (OR & CA)
- Organ Peaks (NM)
- Basin and Range (NV)
- Gold Butte (NV)

The following national monuments were announced to have been removed from review prior to the August 24 deadline:

- Craters of the Moon
- Hanford Reach
- Upper Missouri River Breaks
- Grand Canyon-Parashant
- Canyons of the Ancients
- Sand to Snow

###

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR RYAN ZINKE**

In 1906, Congress delegated to the President the power to designate a monument under the Antiquities Act (Act). The Act authorizes the President singular authority to designate national monuments without public comment, environmental review, or further consent of Congress. Given this extraordinary executive power, Congress wisely placed limits on the President by defining the objects that may be included within a monument as being “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest,” by restricting the authority to Federal lands, and by limiting the size of the monument to “the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects.” Congress retained its authority to make land use designations without such limitations. Even with the restrictive language, use of the Act has not always been without controversy. In fact, even Theodore Roosevelt's first proclamation of the roughly 1,200 acre Devil's Tower in Wyoming was controversial. Since that time, the use of the Act has largely been viewed as an overwhelming American success story and today includes almost 200 of America's greatest treasures.

More recently, however, the Act's executive authority is under scrutiny as administrations have expanded both the size and scope of monument designations. Since 1996 alone, the Act has been used by the President 26 times to create monuments that are over 100,000 acres or more in size and have

included private property within the identified external boundaries. While early monument designations focused more on geological formations, archaeological ruins, and areas of historical interest, a more recent and broad interpretation of what constitutes an “object of historic or scientific interest” has been extended to include landscape areas, biodiversity, and view sheds. Moreover, features such as World War II desert bombing craters and remoteness have been included in justifying proclamations.

The responsibility of protecting America's public lands and unique antiquities should not be taken lightly; nor should the authority and the power granted to a President under the Act. No President should use the authority under the Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object. It is Congress and not the President that has the authority to make protective land designations outside of the narrow scope of the Act, and only Congress retains the authority to enact designations such as national parks, wilderness, and national conservation and recreation areas. The executive power under the Act is not a substitute for a lack of congressional action on protective land designations.

President Trump was correct in tasking the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to review and provide recommendations of all monuments that were designated from 1996 to the present that are 100,000 acres or greater in size or made without adequate public consultation. This is far from the first time an examination of scope of monuments has been conducted. Existing monuments have been modified by successive Presidents in the past, including 18 reductions in the size of monuments, and there is no doubt that President Trump has the authority to review and consider recommendations to modify or add a monument.

The methodology used for the review consisted of three steps. The first step was to gather the facts which included the examination of existing proclamations, object(s) to be protected, segregation of the objects (if practical) to meet the "smallest area compatible" requirement, the scientific and rational basis for the boundaries, land uses within the monument, public access concerns and authorized traditional uses, and appropriate environmental and cultural protections. As directed by the President, the second step was to ensure that the local voice was heard by holding meetings with local, state, tribal, and other elected officials as well as meetings with non-profit groups and other stakeholders, as well as providing an online format for public comment. The final step was to review policies on public access, hunting and fishing rights, traditional use such as timber production and grazing, economic and

environmental impacts, potential legal conflicts, and provide a report to the President no later than August 24, 2017.

The review found that each monument was unique in terms of the object(s) used for justification, proclamation language, history, management plans, economic impact, and local support. Adherence to the Act's definition of an "object" and "smallest area compatible" clause on some monuments were either arbitrary or likely politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management. Despite the apparent lack of adherence to the purpose of the Act, some monuments reflect a long public debate process and are largely settled and strongly supported by the local community. Other monuments remain controversial and contain significant private property within the identified external boundary or overlap with other Federal land designations such as national forests, Wilderness Study Areas, and lands specifically set aside by Congress for timber production.

Public comments can be divided into two principal groups. Proponents tended to promote monument designation as a mechanism to prevent the sale or transfer of public land. This narrative is false and has no basis in fact. Public lands within a monument are federally owned and managed regardless of monument designation under the Act. Proponents also point to the economic benefits from increased tourism from monument recognition. On this point, monument status has a potential economic benefit of increased visitation, particularly to service related industries, outdoor recreation industries, and other businesses dependent or supported by tourism. Increased visitation also places an additional burden and responsibility on the Federal Government to provide additional resources and manpower to maintain these lands to better support increased visitation and recreational activities.

Comments received were overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments and demonstrated a well-orchestrated national campaign organized by multiple organizations. Opponents of monuments primarily supported rescinding or modifying the existing monuments to protect traditional multiple use, and those most concerned were often local residents associated with industries such as grazing, timber production, mining, hunting and fishing, and motorized recreation. Opponents point to other cases where monument designation has resulted in reduced public access, road closures, hunting and fishing restrictions, multiple and confusing management plans, reduced grazing allotments and timber production, and pressure applied to private land owners encompassed by or adjacent to a monument to sell.

###



**To:** Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Davis, Natalie  
**Sent:** 2017-10-23T13:16:04-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 10/23  
**Received:** 2017-10-23T13:16:14-04:00  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 10-23-17.docx](#)

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 10/23/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

TODAY: DC – Meeting with Edison Electric Institute

**THIS WEEK:**

10/24 DC – Bat Week Proclamation Signing

- ☐ Quarterly Meeting with Majority Members of U.S. House Natural Resources Committee & separate meeting with Minority Members
- ☐ Remarks at OTR Conservative Dinner

10/25 DC – Meeting with USAID Administrator

- ☐ Remarks to Weyrich Lunch
- ☐ Meeting with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos
- ☐ Meeting with Representative Cramer (ND)
  - o Red River Valley Water Supply Project

10/26 DC – Meeting with Danish Minister for Energy, Utilities, and Climate, Mr. Lars Christian

- ☐ American Heroes Roundtable

- ☐ Meeting with Tom Hutchison

10/27 DC – Call with Governor Mary Fallin (OK)

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Denver, CO

- ☐ Western Governors Association
  - o Fish and Wildlife Service Meeting
  - o Meeting with James Ogsbury, WGA Executive Director
  - o Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting

-

**WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Friday, 10/20)

**Press Inquiries:**

- ☐ Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.

**Top Stories**

- ☐ **E&E News:** BLM panel urges aggressive action to cull herds
- ☐ **E&E News:** Lolita Zinke makes her mark outside the Cabinet
- ☐ **Newsweek:** WHY PROTECTING THE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL SPARKS FOREST FIRES
- ☐ **The Bismarck Tribune:** Zinke going too far with flag, coins

**Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- ☐ Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- ☐ Today, Interior and the office of Wildland Fire will issue a release regarding the California Wildfires. The press release can be seen HERE.
- ☐ Monday, Interior will announce oil and gas lease sale #250. This will be the largest acreage sale in the history of the Gulf of Mexico.
- ☐ Secretary Zinke is on personal leave. He will return on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD October 18 thru October 26, 2017 (Submitted 10/18)**

**Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews**

- **October 24:** Secretary Zinke is speaking at the OTR Conservative Reporter Dinner, a dinner with leading conservative journalists hosted by Jamie Weinstein and Michelle Fields.
- **October 24:** Secretary Zinke is signing a proclamation declaring October 24-31 “Bat Week.” 2017 marks the 3rd annual international Bat Week, when federal and state agencies and NGO partners raise awareness about the importance of bats to a healthy environment and economy. Secretary Purdue has also signed a proclamation.
- **October 25:** Secretary Zinke is addressing the Weyrich Lunch meeting, a weekly forum for reporting to conservative leaders. He will speak about DOI priorities and achievements.
- **October 26:** Secretary Zinke is hosting and American Heroes Roundtable discussion and listening session with disabled veterans who are sportsmen and sportswomen. Focus will be on providing better access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreation.
- **October 27:** Secretary Zinke is recording a Veterans Day video message for DOI employees.

#### **Department-level Release**

- **October 24: DOI/USDA Joint Release:** DOI and USDA will issue joint releases and Secretarial Proclamations kicking off Bat Week. Other events: FWS will join USGS, USFS and Organization for Bat Conservation, and other partners at two congressional events on Capitol Hill to commemorate BatWeek 2017. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and FWS will also announce funding up to \$1 million for the first round of grants to fight white-nose syndrome under the Bats for the Future Fund (BFF).

#### **National Park Service**

- **October 23: National NPS Release:** NPS will announce proposed peak season entrance fee increases at the 17 highest grossing national parks, commercial tour entrance fee increases at the same 17 parks, and commercial use authorizations for all road-based commercial tour operators.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **October TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others
- **October TBD: FWS News Bulletin:** FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.

#### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **October 23 – 25:** BLM-CO Royal Gorge Field Office, CO Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service will hold three public meetings to discuss plans to revise the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area River Management Plan. Discussion will focus on current boating capacities and existing facilities along the Arkansas River, from Leadville to Lake Pueblo State Park.
- **October 23 – 24:** The Sage Grouse Task Force is scheduled to meet in Denver to discuss any additional issues or concerns raised by stakeholders, specific proposed policy changes, and any remaining issues that may require a plan amendment in connection with Secretarial Order 3353.
- **October 24: National BLM Release:** BLM-NV will host a competitive geothermal lease sale for 20 parcels, located in the Battle Mountain, Carson City, Elko and Winnemucca districts, containing 38,208.46 acres for geothermal leasing. This will be the first online geothermal lease sale for Nevada. This lease sale is not expected to be controversial. At this time, the BLM cannot predict the level of bidding interest.
- **October 24:** BLM-WY Worland Field Office will host a public meeting in Hyattville, Wyoming, in support of the 30-day scoping period for the Alkali Creek Reservoir Project Environmental Impact Statement.
- **October 24:** BLM-WY Cody Field Office will host public meetings in Cody and Lovell, Wyoming, to gather input for a cave and karst management plan that will address the natural, undisturbed ecosystems within caves, recreational caving, scientific research and surface uses above caves. Local media may attend.
- **October 24:** BLM-CA State Director Jerry Perez and Desert District Manager Beth Ransel will meet with Brigadier General Kevin Killea, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Meeting topics will include implementation of base expansion and land transfer, renewable energy, desert tortoises, recreation and off-highway vehicle access.
- **October 25:** BLM-CA State Director Jerry Perez, Desert District Manager Beth Ransel and Barstow Field Manager Katrina Symons will meet with officials at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range. Issues to be discussed include implementation of base expansion and land transfer, renewable energy, desert tortoises, recreation and off-highway vehicle access.
- **October 26:** BLM-AK Acting State Director Karen Mouritsen will attend the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee meeting at the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center, in Anchorage.
- **October 26:** BLM-WY Cody Field Office will host a public meeting in Shell, Wyoming, in support of the 45-day scoping period for the Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project Environmental Impact Statement.
- **October 26:** BLM-WY Casper Field Office will hold a public meeting about tribal consultation for oil and gas permits in Converse County, Wyoming

#### U.S. Geological Survey

- **October 24: National News Release: USGS will issue a release regarding** a new web-based tool that provides users with unprecedented detail of mountains worldwide. USGS partnered with the University of Bern (Switzerland) and ESRI Group

on Earth Observations. Tool will be unveiled at GEO conference.

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

• **October 26 - November 1:** A six-member team from the Bureau of Reclamation will visit Taipei, Taiwan, to participate in the 30th anniversary meeting between Reclamation and Taiwan's Water Resources Agency. Reclamation serves as the designated technical representative of the American Institute in Taiwan, the official arm of the U.S. Department of State in Taiwan.

### **CONGRESSIONAL**

#### **October 25, 2017**

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislative hearing on S. 1870, Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act 2017; S. 1953, Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of 2010; and S. , Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act.

Witness: Bryan Rice, Director, BIA

2:00pm: House Natural Resources Indian Affairs Subcommittee

The House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee is set to host a legislative hearing on Rep. Don Young's H.R. 215, American Indian Empowerment Act of 2017.

Witness: John Tahsuda, Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs

### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board 61

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- ☐ Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- ☐ Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- ☐ Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- ☐ Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor

Overall:

- ☐ Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 7 in process
- ☐ NC-SES: 24 of 44 onboard; 2 starting; 3 in process
- ☐ PAS: 3 Confirmed; 4 Announced; 15 of 17 Submitted to PPO

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

Accepted:

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

10/28 Remarks at Washington International Horse Show DC)

10/29 Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Island (DC)

11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)

11/9 – National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)

11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition  
(Anaheim, CA)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference  
for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

Declining

10/26 - Montana Chamber Annual Meeting (Great Falls, MT)

10/28 – Cattle Producers of Washington Annual Meeting (Airway Heights, WA)

10/30-11/3 – International Mining and Resources Conference (Melbourne, Australia)

10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

11/1 - 2017 SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Festival (Jackson Hole, WY)

11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt

11/8 – WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield,  
MO)

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** (new)

**Hurricane Response/Recovery:**

Stabilization and recovery work at Christiansted National Historic Site, Buck Island Reef National Monument, and Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve on St. Croix, continues to be managed by a NPS Incident Management Team. Portions of Christiansted National Historic Site are anticipated to reopen soon, and the park has cleaned up the waterfront, removed hazardous trees, and continues to work toward providing for a safe and enjoyable visitor experience. Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve Visitor Contact Station was badly damaged by Hurricane Maria and will remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

USGS had 13 personnel in the field assessing damage and repairing gages under their own authorities. Under Mission Assignments, USGS had one person retrieving storm surge sensors, performing high water mark flagging, and surveying in Puerto Rico, and one additional person performing remote analysis of imagery to identify significant landslide impacts in Puerto Rico.

The Department of Homeland Security reports that, in Puerto Rico, power has been restored to approximately 22 (+1)-percent of customers and the expectation is that 95-percent of Puerto Rico will be restored by December 15. Potable water has been restored to more than 72-percent of clients served by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. The Guajataca Dam spillway reservoir pool is approximately 5 (+1) feet below spillway crest. There are two 18-inch pumps pumping water to an adjacent water canal which will allow downstream communities to start operating water treatment plants. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, there has been no change in the number of residents being serviced by grid power (St. Thomas 29-percent, St. Croix 1.6-percent, St. John 0-percent). The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority estimates 90-percent of the power will be restored by November 23.

**Port Aransas, Texas Fatal Barge Fire and Oil Spill:**

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the Texas General Land Office, and Bouchard Transportation representatives continue to respond to a barge that caught fire on October 20, three miles off the jetties of Port Aransas, Texas. Although the fire is out, response efforts continue to minimize the impact to the environment and maritime community. Per Miller contracting, an estimated 1,000 gallons of product per 12 cubic yards of material has been collected or 3,000 gallons of product has been collected from the beach. Two wildlife response teams have been deployed between the Padre Island National Seashore (NPS) and Port Aransas. They are actively engaged in assessing any impacted wildlife. USFWS personnel from the Texas Coastal Ecological Service Field Office in Corpus Christi continue to monitor and provide support to the response. Personnel are working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to support wildlife operations, shoreline, and bird surveys.

**Wildland Fire Activity:**

Six thousand firefighters continue their efforts in containing 10 active wildfires still burning in California. Red Flag Warnings are in effect across southern California as gusty winds and low

humidity have increased fire danger from Santa Barbara County down to San Diego County. The Tubbs Fire in northern California alone has broken the record as the most destructive wildfire in California's history. At the peak of the wildfires, there were 21 major wildfires that, in total, burned over 245,000 acres. Eleven thousand firefighters battled the destructive fires that at one time forced 100,000 people to evacuate, destroyed an estimated 8,400 structures, and took the lives of 42 people.

-

### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)

#### **Arctic Refuge Drilling Closer As Senate Moves To Open Site.**

The [AP](#) (10/20, Daly) reported in continuing coverage that the Republican-controlled Senate is one step closer to drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Reserve after passing a budget measure authorizing Congress to pursue legislation allowing exploration by a majority vote.

#### **Trump Administration Scrambles To Save Largest Coal Plant In The West.**

The Washington Examiner (10/23, Siciliano) reports that "resuscitating" the Navajo Generating Station "could be the first test of President Trump's resolve to restore demand for coal in the electricity sector, especially since the government is a majority stakeholder in the plant it is seeking to save." The Trump Administration has "until December to save the largest coal-fired power plant in the West, but the prospects for the plant burning coal after 2019 are questionable." The deliberations to secure new owners for the plan will "continue into next year even after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signs off on a key environmental determination for the plant and approves a lease extension by Dec. 1."

#### **Louisiana To Congress: How Much Gulf Oil Money Will We Get?**

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (10/20, Schleifstein) reported Gov. John Bel Edwards' coastal adviser Johnny Bradberry sent a letter to Louisiana's congressional delegation to help find out how much money the state will receive in offshore drilling royalties under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. Initial estimates from the Interior Department found the state would receive between \$62-75 million, about half the estimated annual maximum for Louisiana.

#### **Boem Approves Key Step for Deepwater Wind-Tesla Offshore Wind Project**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has approved a key step for Deepwater Wind's 144-megawatt Revolution Wind project proposed off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In a letter dated Oct. 12 and posted by the agency today, BOEM said it approved Deepwater's "site assessment plan" to install a meteorological buoy at the site of the project. The buoy will give the company the biological and wind performance data it needs to file a construction plan. Deepwater has held a lease for the area since 2013 and in July announced plans with Tesla to combine the wind project with a 40 megawatt-hour onshore battery in their bid to win a long-term clean-energy contract in Massachusetts. Deepwater late last year brought the nation's first offshore wind project online — the 30-megawatt Block Island project off the Rhode Island coast.

#### **Izembek Road Opponents Struggle To Shine Light On Interior Department Plans.**

The Alaska Dispatch News (10/22, Martinson) reports that "opponents of a longtime effort to build a road from King Cove to Cold Bay — through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge — say they are struggling to illuminate the Interior Department's current legal path toward allowing the road."



Opponents of the road claim “that documents recently obtained through a Freedom of Information Act Request show that the agency is not looking to make the specifics of its plans public any time soon.” The Interior Department “declined to answer specific questions about the legal steps required to approve the road, or a timeline for doing so.” Alex Hinson, deputy press secretary for the Interior Department, said, “The Alaska Congressional Delegation, Governor, Mayor of King Cove, King Cove Native Corporation, and affiliated Alaska native tribal entities have asked us to consider a small land exchange to build a lifesaving road for aeromedical evacuations from King Cove to the all-weather airport at Cold Bay. We do not comment on pre-decisional negotiations.”

#### **Lolita Zinke Makes Her Mark Outside The Cabinet.**

E&E Publishing (10/20, Doyle) reports on the “diverse activities” of Lolita Zinke, the wife of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, which “spotlight the sometimes blurry boundaries between public and private spheres that confront family members in every administration.” The article notes that “at times, she’s right by the Interior secretary’s side, although officials characterize this support as familial and nothing out of the ordinary.” Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift said, “Mrs. Zinke has zero role at the department.” An Interior official added that “much like previous secretaries and spouses, she occasionally meets her husband while he is traveling at her own personal expense” and that “she and all Cabinet spouses received a federal ethics briefing.”

#### **Plan Keeps Most Of Sonoran Desert National Monument Open To Shooters.**

Cronkite News (10/20, Vernile) reports that the Bureau of Land Management last Friday “recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters.” The plan, posted in the Federal Register, “calls for making 11 percent of the monument’s land off-limits to shooting.” The article notes that “hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits.”

#### **National Tribal Group Calls for Drilling Moratorium Around Chaco.**

The AP (10/20) reported that the National Congress of American Indians are calling for a drilling moratorium near Chaco Culture National Historic Park in New Mexico. A resolution to cease drilling in portions of the San Juan Basin was approved Friday by the group. The AP adds that “the critics say increased development has the potential to destroy parts of the landscape that could provide a better understanding of the ancient civilization that once inhabited the area.”

#### **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

##### **Notices submitted to the Federal Register for Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>:**

REG0007512 BLM: Notice of National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale 2017- This Notice announces that the BLM Alaska State Office will hold an oil and gas lease sale bid opening for available tracts in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) on December 6, 2017. The opening and the reading of bids will be available for public viewing via video livestreaming. Notice 10/20/2017

REG0007533 BOEM: Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Region-wide Lease Sale 250- BOEM announces the availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale (NOS) for the proposed Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

Oil and Gas Lease Sale 250. BOEM invites affected States to comment on the proposed lease sale within 60 days of their receipt of the Proposed NOS. Notice 10/20/2017

REG0007548 NPS: National Register of Historic Places, October 7, 2017- The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 7, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 10/20/2017

REG0007554 NPS: National Register of Historic Places, September 30, 2017- The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before September 30, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 10/20/2017

REG0007555 NPS: Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the National Park Service (NPS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs (36 CFR part 61). The NPS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 10/20/2017

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**To:** Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Bauserman, Christine[christine\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**Sent:** 2017-07-26T13:50:32-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/26/17  
**Received:** 2017-07-26T13:50:56-04:00  
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-26-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/26/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor  
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

**Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington and will travel to Texas.  
Meeting with the NSC.  
Meeting with Mike Catanzaro.  
Meeting with Bannon.  
Tour with Mayor Bowser.  
Meeting with Rep. Aderholt and James Swanson.  
Travel to El Paso, TX for Border and Monuments Tour.

**Thursday, July 27, 2017**

Arrive Fort Bliss  
Helicopter Tour of Organ Mountains  
Travel to Las Cruces, NM  
Roundtable with Ranchers & Stakeholders  
Roundtable on Border Security  
Meeting with Northern Ranchers on Rio Grande del Norte NM  
HOLD: Media Availability  
Driving Tour with BLM

**Friday, July 28, 2017**

Hike with Vet Voice Foundation  
Meeting with Fort Sill Apache Tribe  
Meeting with Mescalero Apache  
Meeting with All Pueblo Council of Governors tribes  
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks  
Travel to Santa Fe, NM

**Saturday, July 29, 2017**

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge

Greet Senators and Rep. Lujan and Consolidate Vehicles.  
Hike to Canyon Bottom // Horseback Riding & Hiking  
Travel to Albuquerque, NM  
Dinner with Senators

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Travel to Las Vegas (LAS)  
Travel to Kirt's Grotto  
Meeting with BLM Support Staff  
Fly Over Tour of Gold Butte National Monument  
Helicopter Tour departs Gold Butte National Monument en route Basin and Range National Monument  
Lunch Meeting with BLM Staff  
White River Narrows Rock Art Site Tour  
Shaman Knob / Mt. Irish  
Tour of Mt. Irish Petroglyph Site  
Travel to Las Vegas Airport

Monday, July 31, 2017

Travel to Mesquite, NV  
Roundtable with Friends of Gold Butte  
Depart Mesquite, NV en route Overton, NV  
Roundtable with Local County, City, and State Officials  
Depart Overton, NV en route Moapa Tribal Facility  
Meeting with Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Depart en route Las Vegas, NV  
HOLD: potential other meeting  
Wheels up Las Vegas, NV (LAS) en route Cincinnati, OH (CVG)  
Wheels up Cincinnati, OH (CVG) en route Washington, DC (DCA)

8/1 Day One Bernhardt.

NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

**Media TODAY**

**SECRETARY ZINKE TO VISIT NEW MEXICO FOR MONUMENT REVIEW**

(WASHINGTON) - On Thursday, July 27, 2017, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will travel to New Mexico as part of the April 26, 2017 executive order to review select national monuments. Secretary Zinke will tour the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument by air, car and foot. He will meet with local stakeholders and elected officials who represent all sides of the issue. A press conference for credentialed members of the news media will be held on Thursday, July 27. Members of the news media who wish to RSVP for the press conference must email [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov).

**DOI COMMS REPORT**

National Park Service

□ Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.

□ TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

□ July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act.

□ July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a final rule establishing the 2017-18 hunting seasons and bag limits for certain migratory game birds to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.

□ July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.

□ July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to approve the shot for hunting waterfowl and coots. FWS has concluded that this type of shot left in the terrestrial or aquatic environments is unlikely to adversely affect fish, wildlife, or their habitats. Approving this shot formulation would increase the nontoxic shot options for hunters. Interested stakeholders include the Flyway Councils, state wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations and hunters.

□ TBD: FWS Local Release: FWS plans to announce the notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. There may be some controversy with cost estimates associated with this plan.

#### Bureau of Land Management

□ Week of July 24: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO Little Snake Field Office will announce a 30-day public scoping period for an environmental assessment evaluating a coal Lease by Application (LBA) from Peabody Energy's Twentymile Coal Foidel Creek

Mine near Hayden. The LBA is for 640 acres of federal coal underneath private surface. The coal would be mined by underground methods with no surface disturbance. The mine estimates it could recover 4.1 million tons of coal, generating approximately \$13 million in royalties, half of which would go to the state. The lease would help the mine continue to employ 365 people.

- July 25: Local BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, will hold public meetings in St. Paul, MN, and Virginia, MN, to solicit comments regarding the proposed 20-year withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Federal minerals from national forest system lands on the Superior National Forest within the Rainy River Watershed. Public comments received during project scoping will inform development of an EIS to study the proposed mineral withdrawal.
- July 21 -26: The sage-grouse task force team comprised of BLM, USGS, USFWS, USFS, and Western Governors' offices will work in four subgroups to review a draft plan in response to S.O. 3353. The subgroups pertain to plan and policy review, fire and invasive species, data and science and wildlife management.
- July 26: BLM acting Deputy Director for Operations John Ruhs will attend the Nevada Sheriffs' Association meeting and provide a "BLM 101" presentation.
- July 26: BLM-AK will participate in the annual Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) forum, focusing on issues that relate to potential sites within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and contaminated lands and mine sites in Alaska.
- July 26: BLM-CA Bishop Field Office will meet with representatives from Mono County, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and a private landowner to discuss riparian habitat improvement for bi-state sage-grouse through alterations in county road maintenance and installation of culverts and drainage dips.

#### Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- July 26 (tent.): BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.

#### Office of Insular Affairs

- July 25 or 26: Local IA Release: Marshall Islands grants release announces Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for four Atolls (Sec 177) \$697,387.

#### CONGRESSIONAL

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

9:45am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee

Legislative Hearing on S. 32, California Desert Protection and Recreation Act; S. 90, Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; S.357, Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act;

S.436, San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act; S.467, Mohave County Federal Land Management Act; S.468, Historic Routes Preservation Act; S.614, Recreation and Public Purposes Act Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act; S.785, Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act; S.837, Southern Utah Open OHV Areas Act; S.884, Small Miners Waiver Act; S.941, Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act; S.1149, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to repeal a provision limiting the export of timber harvested from land conveyed to the Kake Tribal Corporation; S.1230, Water Rights Protection Act; S.1271, Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act; and S.1548, Oregon Wildlands Act

Witness: John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, BLM

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Oversight Hearing on the GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States

Witness: Jason Thompson, Acting Director, Office of Justice Services, BIA

#### **Political Appointee Update**

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech – Senate Committee vote scheduled Thursday.

Nominee Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

#### **Secretary Speaking Invitations**

##### **Accepted**

7/27-31 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/5-20 Personal

##### **Outstanding Invitations in Process**

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

##### **Declining**

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)

8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony

General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball

(Whitefish/Kalispell)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

#### **Emergency Management**

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 80,000 (+1,100) acres and is 65 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 4,495 (-518) personnel, including 123 (-9) DOI personnel.

There are 1,500 (no change) residential structures threatened and 4,968 (no change) evacuees. Communities, transportation routes, and power infrastructure located to the northeast of the fire continue to be threatened, including transmission lines that supply Yosemite National Park with power. While additional perimeter growth is expected over the next 24 hours, full containment of the Detwiler Fire expected on August 5.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 270,000 (+20,000) acres and is 34 (+14)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 656 (+45) personnel, including 96 (+15) DOI personnel. There are 145 (no change) residential structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuees. Sixteen (no change) residences have been destroyed. There is potential for large fire growth on Thursday due to a cold front bringing high winds to the fire area. Three (no change) civilian injuries and three (no change) responder injuries have been reported to date. The need for additional resources is not anticipated at this time, and full containment is expected on August 2.

### **Outside Media of Interest**

#### **As Interior Secretary Swaggers Through Parks, His Staff Rolls Back Regulations.**

In an analysis, the New York Times (7/25, Davenport, Fandos) reports that as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who professes his admiration of Teddy Roosevelt, visits public lands in the West to gather input on his department's review of recent national monument designations, "a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts" put in place during the Obama Administration. The Times highlights that Interior staff filed a legal proposal on Tuesday "to rescind the nation's first safety regulation on hydraulic fracturing," "are exploring a proposal to loosen safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put in place after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico," "have rolled back an Obama-era order to block coal mining on public lands and delayed carrying out a regulation controlling emissions of methane...from oil and gas wells," and is conducting "a review of federal protections of the sage grouse." The Times adds that Zinke's cultivation of his "rugged image" is said to "getting old" to conservationists, while "the oil and gas lobby says it is delighted" with the policy moves.

#### **Delaware Senators Oppose Atlantic Ocean Seismic Testing.**

The AP (7/25) reports the two US senators from Delaware, Tom Carper and Chris Coons, "are asking the Trump administration to reject applications from companies seeking to conduct seismic surveys in the Atlantic Ocean, a first step toward offshore drilling." The senators "said in a joint statement Tuesday that they and leaders in Delaware coastal communities oppose the surveys, which help map potential drilling sites for oil and natural gas." The AP adds "many other East Coast lawmakers and environmental groups also oppose such surveying, saying loud sounds from seismic air guns could hurt marine life."

#### **Interior Provides \$409,885 To Guam.**

The Saipan (MNP) Tribune (7/25) reports that Acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula "made available \$409,885 to preserve natural and cultural resources and protect against invasive species in Guam." Pula said, "We are especially pleased that Congress was able to provide some extra funding in [fiscal year] 2017 to mitigate and control the coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant in Guam. All funding supports Gov. Eddie Calvo's efforts in protecting Guam's natural resources now and for the future."



**Federal Register Listings**

Items cleared for the FR on Tuesday.

REG0007205 BIA Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Homeliving Programs and School Closure and Consolidation. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection relating to Homeliving Programs and School Closure and Consolidation. The BIE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 07/25/2017.

REG0007172 FWS General Conservation Plan for Oil and Gas Activities in Santa Barbara County, CA; Notice of Intent to prepare Environmental Documents; Initiation of Public Scoping Process. The U.S. FWS is seeking input from the public to identify potential issues and concerns, potential impacts, and possible alternatives to be considered in the development of an environmental analysis for a proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in Santa Barbara County. Notice 07/25/2017.

REG0007185 FWS Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed 2018-19 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations (Preliminary) with Requests for Indian Tribal Proposals; Notice of Meetings. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season. Proposed Rule 07/25/2017.

REG0007190 FWS Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of Applications for Permit (first app University of Texas--Austin, Austin, TX PRT-124346). This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits and Marine Mammal Protection Act permits. Notice 07/25/2017.

REG0007187 NPS Postponement of Public Meeting; Acadia National Park Advisory Commission. NPS will publish a future notice with new meeting date and location. Notice 07/25/2017.

REG0007208 NPS Notice of Meeting Postponement; Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Advisory Commission. NPS will publish a future notice with new meeting date and location. Notice 07/25/2017.

REG0007209 NPS Notice of Meeting Postponement; Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee. NPS will publish a future notice with new meeting date and location. Notice 07/25/2017.

REG0007210 NPS Notice of Meeting Postponement; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee. NPS will publish a future notice with new meeting date and location. Notice 07/25/2017.

REG0007211 NPS Notice of Meeting Postponement; Paterson Great Falls National Historical

Park Advisory Commission. NPS will publish a future notice with new meeting date and location. Notice 07/25/2017.

**WOLF TRAP**

Tickets in the Secretary's box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-26-17	Regina Spektor/Ben Folds	8:00 PM
7-28-17	ORFF: Carmina Burana; Beethoven: Emperor Concerto	8:15 PM
7-29-17	Aretha Franklin	8:00 PM
8-1-17	Nashville in Concert	8:00 PM
8-2-17	Punch Brothers	8:00 PM
8-3-17	Blondie & Garbage	7:30 PM
8-4-17	La La Land in Concert	8:30 PM

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

**To:** Lori Mashburn[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Domenech, Douglas[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-07-25T16:02:05-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: MEDIA ADVISORY: Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell Announce Upcoming Committee Schedule  
**Received:** 2017-07-25T16:02:54-04:00

Doug! And Susan and Brenda :)

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Majority Press (Energy)** <[press@energy.senate.gov](mailto:press@energy.senate.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 25, 2017 at 3:59 PM  
**Subject:** MEDIA ADVISORY: Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell Announce Upcoming Committee Schedule  
**To:** "Majority Press (Energy)" <[press@energy.senate.gov](mailto:press@energy.senate.gov)>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [Nicole Daigle](#) (Murkowski) 202.224.2576  
[Michael LaRosa](#) (Cantwell) 202.224.7556

July 25, 2017  
[Permalink](#)

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell**

## Announce Upcoming Committee Schedule

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources today announced a business meeting and two subcommittee hearings that will be held in the coming weeks. The business meeting will focus on the pending nominations for the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior. The subcommittee hearings will receive testimony for several bills on public lands related issues and examine water security and drought preparedness. More information on these hearings can be found at the links below or by visiting the committee's [website](#).

- **Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 9:45 a.m. EDT** – Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining [legislative hearing](#) to receive testimony on the following bills:

- **S. 32**, California Desert Protection and Recreation Act;
  - **S. 90**, Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act;
  - **S.357**, Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act;
  - **S.436**, San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act;
  - **S.467**, Mohave County Federal Land Management Act;
  - **S.468**, Historic Routes Preservation Act;
- **S.614**, Recreation and Public Purposes Act Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act;
- **S.785**, Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act;
- **S.837**, Southern Utah Open OHV Areas Act;
- **S.884**, Small Miners Waiver Act;
- **S.941**, Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act;
- **S.1149**, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to repeal a provision limiting the export of timber harvested from land conveyed to the Kake Tribal Corporation;
- **S.1230**, Water Rights Protection Act;
- **S.1271**, Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act; and
- **S.1548**, Oregon Wildlands Act.

- **Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. EDT** – [Business meeting](#) to consider the following nominations:

- **Ms. Brenda Burman** to be Commissioner of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior;

- **Ms. Susan Combs** to be Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget at the Department of the Interior;
  - **Mr. Paul Dabbar** to be Under Secretary for Science of the Department of Energy;
  - **Mr. Douglas Domenech** to be Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs at the Department of the Interior;
  - **Mr. David Jonas** to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy; and
  - **Mr. Mark Menezes** to be Under Secretary of the Department of Energy.
- **Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. EDT** – Subcommittee on Water and Power hearing to examine increasing water security and drought preparedness through infrastructure, management and innovation.

The business meeting and subcommittee hearings will be held in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee room, Dirksen 366, and will be webcast live on the committee's website. Witness testimony for the subcommittee hearings will be available online immediately before the start of the hearing.

###

[Energy.Senate.Gov](http://Energy.Senate.Gov)



*Note: Please do not reply to this email. This mailbox is unattended. For further information, please contact Nicole Daigle at 202-224-2576. Visit our website at <http://energy.senate.gov>*



**To:** Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Bauserman, Christine[christine\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**Sent:** 2017-07-25T13:50:32-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/25/17  
**Received:** 2017-07-25T13:51:00-04:00  
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-25-17.docx](#)

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/25/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor  
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

- **NOTE: BERNHARDT WINS SENATE CONFIRMATION:** Senators voted 53-43 Monday evening to confirm David Bernhardt's nomination as deputy secretary at Interior. Five members of the Democratic caucus - Michael Bennet, Joe Donnelly, Heidi Heitkamp, Angus King and Joe Manchin - joined all Republicans in supporting his bid to serve as Secretary Ryan Zinke's No. 2. "David's extensive experience serving under previous Interior secretaries, his esteemed legal career, and down-right love of our land and resources is exactly what is needed to help streamline government," Zinke said in a statement after the vote.

- Bernhardt Day 1 will be August 1.

- **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington and will travel to OH with POTUS.  
Meeting with Philip Howard, Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling.  
Call with Rep. Costa.  
Call with Senator Schatz.  
Travel to Ohio, American Heroes POTUS event.

**THIS WEEK:**

7/26 Wednesday: Hold for Sen. Merkley; Tour with Mayor Bowser; Meeting with Rep. Aderholt and James Swanson; Travel to El Paso, TX. (political event)  
7/27 Thursday: Las Cruces, NM Monuments Tour; helicopter tour of Organ mtns Desert peaks with Fort Bliss, roundtable with ranchers and stakeholders, meeting on border security, meeting with ranchers on Rio Grande del Norte NM, media availability, driving tour with BLM  
7/28 Friday: Las Cruces, NM; Monuments Tour; hike in monument with veterans, tribal meetings, meeting with friends of organ mountains.  
7/29 Saturday: Santa Fe, NM / Sabinoso Wilderness; Sabinoso Wilderness horseback riding with Senators Heinrich and Udall.  
7/30 fly to Las Vegas NV, helicopter tour of basin and range NM and Gold Butte NM, TBD

dinner with Senators.

7/31 Round table with Friends Group on monuments, round table with elected officials, meeting with Moapa tribe, red eye to D.C.

8/1 Day One Bernhardt.

NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

### **Media TODAY**

(Last Night) **INTERIOR SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS CONFIRMATION OF DAVID BERNHARDT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**

WASHINGTON – Today, Department of the Interior veteran David Bernhardt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as the Interior's Deputy Secretary. He will be sworn-in in the coming days.

"Finally, after months of waiting for confirmation in the Senate, I'm excited to welcome David Bernhardt back to the Department to serve as Interior's Deputy Secretary," said Secretary Ryan Zinke. "David's extensive experience serving under previous Interior secretaries, his esteemed legal career, and down-right love of our land and resources is exactly what is needed to help streamline government and make the Interior and our public lands work for the American economy. I look forward to swearing him in and having him on board to help put America First."

### **AMERICAN HEROES: EMPLOYEES STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE AT INTERIOR**

You don't have to wear a cape to be a hero. At the Interior Department, ordinary men and women sometimes find themselves called to act in extraordinary circumstances. Many have gone above and beyond their job descriptions. Some get recognized, and others spend their time quietly protecting the nation's public and tribal lands, and those who visit them.

### **DOI COMMS REPORT**

#### **National Park Service**

□ Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.

□ July 25: Local NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce a 30-day public comment period on the Glacier National Park Lake McDonald Properties Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). Following the public review and comment period, the park will prepare a formal decision document. The EA analyzes alternatives to manage NPS-owned properties, including buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, adjacent to Lake McDonald. The proposed alternative uses an adaptive approach that identifies a sequence of management options for each property, which for most properties begins with historic leasing, park or concessioner use, or stabilization of properties. The last option in the adaptive management approach would be



removal of buildings. The management plan has garnered local media and public interest with little to no controversy and a lot of interest in leasing the properties.

- TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a final rule establishing the 2017-18 hunting seasons and bag limits for certain migratory game birds to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to approve the shot for hunting waterfowl and coots. FWS has concluded that this type of shot left in the terrestrial or aquatic environments is unlikely to adversely affect fish, wildlife, or their habitats. Approving this shot formulation would increase the nontoxic shot options for hunters. Interested stakeholders include the Flyway Councils, state wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations and hunters.
- TBD: FWS Local Release: FWS plans to announce the notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. There may be some controversy with cost estimates associated with this plan.

#### Bureau of Land Management

- Week of July 24: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO Little Snake Field Office will announce a 30-day public scoping period for an environmental assessment evaluating a coal Lease by Application (LBA) from Peabody Energy's Twentymile Coal Foidel Creek Mine near Hayden. The LBA is for 640 acres of federal coal underneath private surface. The coal would be mined by underground methods with no surface disturbance. The mine estimates it could recover 4.1 million tons of coal, generating approximately \$13 million in royalties, half of which would go to the state. The lease would help the mine continue to employ 365 people.
- July 25: Local BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States, in conjunction with the U.S.

Forest Service, will hold public meetings in St. Paul, MN, and Virginia, MN, to solicit comments regarding the proposed 20-year withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Federal minerals from national forest system lands on the Superior National Forest within the Rainy River Watershed. Public comments received during project scoping will inform development of an EIS to study the proposed mineral withdrawal.

- July 21 -26: The sage-grouse task force team comprised of BLM, USGS, USFWS, USFS, and Western Governors' offices will work in four subgroups to review a draft plan in response to S.O. 3353. The subgroups pertain to plan and policy review, fire and invasive species, data and science and wildlife management.
- July 25 -26: Local BLM Release: BLM-WY Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices will hold two open houses to discuss the Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project with local communities. Public comments will be collected on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement released last week.
- July 26: BLM acting Deputy Director for Operations John Ruhs will attend the Nevada Sheriffs' Association meeting and provide a "BLM 101" presentation.
- July 26: BLM-AK will participate in the annual Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) forum, focusing on issues that relate to potential sites within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and contaminated lands and mine sites in Alaska.
- July 26: BLM-CA Bishop Field Office will meet with representatives from Mono County, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and a private landowner to discuss riparian habitat improvement for bi-state sage-grouse through alterations in county road maintenance and installation of culverts and drainage dips.

#### Bureau of Reclamation

- July 24-25: Reclamation will meet with stakeholders in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to kick off the stakeholder engagement process on the reinitiated ESA consultation on Klamath Project Operations. Organizations expected to attend the meeting include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe, The Klamath Tribes, Klamath Water Users Association, and PacifiCorps.

#### Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- July 26 (tent.): BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.

#### Office of Insular Affairs

- July 25: Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, regarding the LBJ Hospital in American Samoa.
- July 25 or 26: Local IA Release: Marshall Islands grants release announces Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for four

Atolls (Sec 177) \$697,387.

- **CONGRESSIONAL**

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

10:00am: House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Natives Affairs Subcommittee Oversight Hearing Assessing Current Conditions and Challenges at the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa

Witness: Thomas Bussanich, Director of Budget, Insular Affairs

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

9:45am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee

Legislative Hearing on S. 32, California Desert Protection and Recreation Act; S. 90, Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; S.357, Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act; S.436, San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act; S.467, Mohave County Federal Land Management Act; S.468, Historic Routes Preservation Act; S.614, Recreation and Public Purposes Act Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act; S.785, Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act; S.837, Southern Utah Open OHV Areas Act; S.884, Small Miners Waiver Act; S.941, Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act; S.1149, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to repeal a provision limiting the export of timber harvested from land conveyed to the Kake Tribal Corporation; S.1230, Water Rights Protection Act; S.1271, Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act; and S.1548, Oregon Wildlands Act

Witness: John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, BLM

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Oversight Hearing on the GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States

Witness: Jason Thompson, Acting Director, Office of Justice Services, BIA

- **Political Appointee Update**

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech participated in a Senate hearing on Thursday.

Nominee Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

**Secretary Speaking Invitations**

**Accepted**

7/25 Ohio with POTUS. American Hero event.

7/26 fly to El Paso, TX

7/27-31 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/5-20 Personal

**Outstanding Invitations in Process**

8/22 - 2017 Lake Tahoe Summit invited by Sen. Feinstein and Sen. Heller (Lake Tahoe, CA)  
8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)  
8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)  
8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony General Welcome (Missoula, MT)  
8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball (Whitefish/Kalispell)  
8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)  
8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)  
8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

Emergency Management

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 78,900 (+2,650) acres and is 60 (+15)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 5,013 (-30) personnel, including 132 (+19) DOI personnel. There are 1,500 (no change) residential structures threatened and 4,968 (no change) evacuees. Road closures on Highway 49 continue to impede access to Yosemite National Park, and high power transmission lines, which supply power to the park, continue to be impacted by the fire. Demobilization of resources is expected to begin today, and full containment of the Detwiler Fire expected on August 5.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 250,000 (+24,000) acres and is 20 (+15)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 611 (+396) personnel, including 81 (+55) DOI personnel. There are 145 (no change) residential structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuees. Sixteen (+4) residences have been destroyed and additional perimeter growth is expected over the next few days. Three (no change) civilian injuries and three (+1) responder injuries have been reported to date. Full containment is expected on August 2.

The Canyon Ferry and Helena Valley dams in Montana have been at an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Response Level 1 since July 6, when a magnitude 5.8 earthquake occurred near Lincoln, Montana. The Bureau of Reclamation has returned both dams to normal operations as they did not identify any damage or issues as a result of the earthquake.

Outside Media of Interest

**Senate Approves Nominee For No. 2 At Interior.**

The AP (7/24) reports that the Senate in a vote of 53-43 on Monday confirmed David Bernhardt, a lawyer and former Interior Department official, as deputy Interior secretary. Democrats criticized Bernhardt "saying he continued to advise a California water district even after he withdrew his formal registration as a lobbyist last year." But Republicans "called Bernhardt a capable lawyer with vast experience in issues important to the West, including endangered species, water use and development of public lands."

### **Trump's Interior Dept To Chop Months Off How Long It Takes To Get An Oil Drilling Permit.**

The Daily Caller (7/24, Bastasch) reports that the Interior Department “plans on cutting wait times for oil and natural gas drilling permits on public lands to just 30 days, according to a senior agency official.” Vincent DeVito, energy policy adviser to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, said, “We do want to shrink it down to 30 days and to make all the processes as short as possible, but at the same time, making sure our environmental stewardship is not breached, all of which is completely doable.” DeVito said, “We intend to be a better business partner by harmonizing the environmental review process across the board, the one-stop-shopping type of model.”

### **Senate Democrats Call For An Investigation Of Climate Scientist Whistleblower Complaint.**

The Washington Post (7/24, Eilperin) reports that “eight Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee asked the Interior Department’s deputy inspector general on Monday to investigate Secretary Ryan Zinke’s decision to reassign roughly 50 senior career officials last month, on the grounds that it could constitute an ‘abuse of authority.’” In the letter to Interior deputy IG Mary Kendall, which was “signed by all but three of the panel’s Democrats, the senators note that one of the reassigned Senior Executive Service officials Joel Clement, the department’s top climate change official has alleged he was punished for his work on the issue.” The senators wrote, “Any suggestion that the Department is reassigning SES employees to force them to resign, silence their voices, or to punish them for the conscientious performance of their public duties is extremely troubling and calls for the closest examination.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift “said in an email that the secretary makes no apologies for his decision to place a slew of experienced career officials in different posts.” Swift said, “The president signed an executive order to reorganize the federal government for the future and the secretary has been absolutely out front on that issue. Senior executives are the highest paid employees in the federal government and signed up for the SES knowing that they could be called upon to work in different positions at any time. Congress meant for the SES to be a mobile force that are capable of taking on different assignments to meet the needs of the agency.” In an email, Interior IG spokeswoman Nancy K. DiPaolo said that the office “just received the letter and will promptly access resources and methods to meet the request. We currently do not have any related work.”

### **Marathon Markup To Tackle 21 Land, Renewable Energy Bills.**

E&E Daily (7/24) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee will begin consideration of 21 bills on Tuesday, “including bipartisan legislation to promote renewable energy development on public lands and a measure that would develop a central database for federal land properties.” Among the bills highlighted by the article is the “Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2017” (H.R. 825), which “requires the Interior Department to identify ‘priority areas’ for wind and geothermal power development on federal lands.” The panel will “also take up H.R. 2199, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), which requires the Interior secretary to develop ‘a single, uniform database’ listing all ‘federal real property.’”

### **Interior Department Announces Plan To Gut Federal Fracking Regulations.**

The Hill (7/24, Cama) reports the Trump administration seeks “to completely repeal Obama-era standards governing hydraulic fracturing on federal land.” The Bureau of Land Management’s proposal is expected to be published today in the Federal Register. The Obama-era rules “set standards in areas such as disclosure of fracking chemicals and integrity of well casing.” The 2015 regulation “was the Obama administration’s attempt to update decades-old regulations to account for the explosive growth in fracking for oil and natural gas in recent years.” The Hill adds “the repeal is the latest in a long string of environmental regulations from Obama that Trump is working to undo.”

### **Federal Register Listings**

No items cleared for the FR on Monday.

### **WOLF TRAP**

Tickets in the Secretary’s box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-25-17	Diana Ross	8:00 PM
7-26-17	Regina Spektor/Ben Folds	8:00 PM
7-28-17	ORFF: Carmina Burana; Beethoven: Emperor Concerto	8:15 PM
7-29-17	Aretha Franklin	8:00 PM
8-1-17	Nashville in Concert	8:00 PM
8-2-17	Punch Brothers	8:00 PM
8-3-17	Blondie & Garbage	7:30 PM
8-4-17	La La Land in Concert	8:30 PM

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

**To:** Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Nikolao Pula[Nikolao\_Pula@ios.doi.gov]; Cameron, Scott[scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Tanya Joshua[tanya\_joshua@ios.doi.gov]; Burgos Rodriguez, Jhoset[jhoset\_burgosrodriguez@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Reaser, Jamie  
**Sent:** 2017-08-24T22:44:42-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: RBP Reporting Language on FY2017  
**Received:** 2017-08-24T22:44:58-04:00  
[DOI.pdf](#)  
[NOAA.pdf](#)  
[RBP Reporting Language on FY2017 Appropriations Language \(1\).docx](#)  
[USDA.pdf](#)

Apologies. The attachments didn't forward. Please find Jhoset's review, as well as the DOI, USDA, and DOC/NOAA appropriations language attached here.

On Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 10:34 PM, Reaser, Jamie <[jamie\\_reaser@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jamie_reaser@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Doug, Nik, and Scott:

I asked Jhoset to review appropriations language re the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii (RBP) for the NISC member Departments/Agencies. Please find his review and the supporting documents attached. For your reference, I've also attached our RBP Fact Sheet.

In short, although the RBP tasks NISC (i.e. the NISC Secretariat) with providing an update to the RBP every three years (next due in March 2018), each of the NISC Co Chair Departments (DOI, USDA, DOC) has been directed by different committees to report on different timelines.

The DOI language states: "Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP) for Micronesia and Hawaii. — The Committee recognizes that the Office of Insular Affairs is supportive of proposed actions contained within the RBP. The Office is directed to include with its fiscal year 2018 budget request a summary of the Office's role in the development and implementation activities of the RBP. The report should include a table of upcoming fiscal year activities, and, if applicable, estimates of funding to be used or needed for planned activities."

The USDA language essentially places USDA in the NISC Secretariat's coordinating role by asking it collaborate with other federal agencies and non federal entities when preparing its report in conjunction with the FY18 budget request (Note: that consultation has not taken place).

Since time constraints now prevent us from having the RBP workshop at the end

of September, I need to work with you all (and DOD, USDA, DOC, HHS NISC reps) to determine how we want to go forward with an RBP update and associated reporting. The Hawaii and Guam delegations are very concerned that this will "fall through the cracks."

Welcoming your initial thoughts...

Best,

Jamie

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Burgos Rodriguez, Jhose** <[jhose.burgosrodriguez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jhose.burgosrodriguez@ios.doi.gov)>

Date: Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 5:23 PM

Subject: RBP Reporting Language on FY2017

To: Jamie Reaser <[jamie\\_reaser@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jamie_reaser@ios.doi.gov)>

Hello Jamie,

Please find analysis and Committee Reports attached.

Gracias,

Jhose

--

**Jhose A. Burgos Rodríguez**

Senior Legal and Policy Analyst

National Invasive Species Council Secretariat

U.S. Department of the Interior

MIB 3528, Washington, DC

[jhose.burgosrodriguez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jhose.burgosrodriguez@ios.doi.gov)

Phone: 202-208-3405

Mobile: 202-770-5560

NISC Management Plan and Executive Order

"We can do this...."

--

Jamie K. Reaser, PhD

Executive Director

National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Secretariat



US Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
Phone: (1) 202.208.4113  
Email: [jamie\\_reaser@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jamie_reaser@ios.doi.gov)

"We can do this...."

--

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"We can do this...."

**To:** Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; DS[gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov]; OIG[Lori\_Vassar@doioig.gov]; OIG[bruce\_delaplaine@doioig.gov]; OIG[nancy\_dipaolo@doioig.gov]; OCL Office[Pamela\_Barkin@ios.doi.gov]; OCL Office[Joshua\_Mahan@ios.doi.gov]; OCL Office[Dominic\_Maione@ios.doi.gov]; OCL Office[Chris\_Salotti@ios.doi.gov]; OCL Office[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; OCL Office[amanda\_kaster@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-PMB[David\_Downes@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-PMB[Amy\_Holley@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-PMB[Debra\_Sonderman@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-PMB[Denise\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-PMB[Abigail\_D\_Miller@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-PMB[Olivia\_Ferriter@ios.doi.gov]; PPA[Shawn\_Buckner@ios.doi.gov]; PPA[Chloe\_Mayne@ios.doi.gov]; POB[adrienne\_moss@ios.doi.gov]; POB[jason\_freihage@ios.doi.gov]; POB[tiffany\_taylor@ios.doi.gov]; POB[patrick\_joos@ios.doi.gov]; ONRR[jerold.gidner@onrr.gov]; ONRR[matthew.mcneown@sol.doi.gov]; ONRR[onrrcongressionalaffairs@onrr.gov]; ONRR[anita.gonzales-evans@onrr.gov]; ONRR[matt.williams@onrr.gov]; A/S-IN[nikolao\_pula@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-IN[Stephen\_Sander@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-IN[basil\_ottley@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-IA[Karen.Frazier@bia.gov]; A/S-IA[Darren.Pete@bia.gov]; A/S-IA[Liberty.Metcalf@bia.gov]; A/S-FW[maureen\_foster@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-FW[wendy\_r\_fink@ios.doi.gov]; FWS[alexandra\_kasdin@fws.gov]; FWS[marian\_howe@fws.gov]; FWS[taylor\_pool@fws.gov]; FWS[devin\_helfrich@fws.gov]; FWS[lisa\_m\_jones@fws.gov]; FWS[alyssa\_hausman@fws.gov]; FWS[Martin\_Kodis@fws.gov]; FWS[angela\_gustavson@fws.gov]; NPS[Melissa\_Kuckro@nps.gov]; NPS[Susan\_Farinelli@nps.gov]; NPS[Sarah\_Gamble@nps.gov]; A/S-WS[kerry\_rae@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-WS[scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; USGS[jjester@usgs.gov]; USGS[egoldbaum@usgs.gov]; USGS[bjcole@usgs.gov]; USGS[jonizuk@usgs.gov]; USGS[ctrent@usgs.gov]; USGS[wlukas@usgs.gov]; BOR[MMAUCIERI@usbr.gov]; BOR[RWolf@usbr.gov]; BOR[ksabo@usbr.gov]; A/S-LM[Richard\_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov]; A/S-LM[Pam.Royal@boemre.gov]; A/S-LM[pam.royal@bsee.gov]; OSM[msimpson@osmre.gov]; BLM[mareid@blm.gov]; BLM[wholmes@blm.gov]; BLM[mgins@blm.gov]; BLM[jralston@blm.gov]; BLM[kkelleh@blm.gov]; BLM[lledouglas@blm.gov]; BLM[michelle\_reid@blm.gov]; BLM[William\_E\_Holmes@blm.gov]; SOL[Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov]; SOL[edward.keable@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-GL[rachel.spector@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-GL[timothy.murphy@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-GL[Robert.Johnston@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-LR[Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-LR[renee.cooper@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-MR[Thomas.Bovard@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-MR[Faye.Johnson@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-MR[DANIEL.KILDUFF@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-MR[PHYLLIS.LESLIE@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-MR[susan.ely@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-MR[richard.mcneer@sol.doi.gov]; SOL-MR[tom.bovard@sol.doi.gov]

**Cc:** OCL Office[Duane\_Galloway@ios.doi.gov]; Legs Summary Group[Matthew\_Quinn@ios.doi.gov]

**From:** Nevils, Joseph

**Sent:** 2017-06-30T12:43:55-04:00

**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL: (DUE 7/7/17 @ 10 AM) S. 1460 - INTERIOR Request for Views  
Re: Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017

**Received:** 2017-06-30T12:45:08-04:00

[s1460.pdf](#)

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017 @ 10 AM**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL REFERRAL**

**Date:** June 30, 2017

**To:** Legislative Liaison

**From:** Matt Quinn (208-3146)  
**Contact:** Joe Nevils (208-4580)  
**Subject:** S. 1460 - INTERIOR Request for Views  
Re: Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017

**S. 1460, Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017 (Senate Floor action is expected on this bill after the July 4<sup>th</sup> Recess.) Of special interest to DOI: Title III (Supply); Title IV (Accountability, esp subtitle D re: BLM) ; Title V (Conservation – esp. NPS); Title V (Land Conveyances); Title VIII (Sportsmen's Access) ; Title IX (Water Infrastructure); Title X (Natural Hazards, incl. volcanic early warning) and Title XI (Indian Energy)**

**Please send agency comments or respond with a "no comment" to Matthew Quinn@ios.doi.gov and Joseph Nevils@ios.doi.gov by the deadline above.**

Attachment(s): 1

--

**Joseph Nevils**  
Legislative Assistant

Department of the Interior  
1849 C St, NW 20240  
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**From:** Mashburn, Lori  
**Sent:** 2017-11-09T13:24:10-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/09  
**Received:** 2017-11-09T13:31:45-05:00  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-09-17.docx](#)

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/09/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

THIS WEEK: The Secretary is in DC

- ☐ 11/9 – Meeting with PG&E CEO Geisha Williams
  - Meeting with Tom Spoehr, The Heritage Foundation
- ☐ 11/10 – Mounted Tour of Manassas National Battlefield
- ☐ 11/11 – Participate in washing of Vietnam Memorial with VPOTUS
  - Participate in Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial
  - Participate in 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony at Arlington National Ceremony
  - Remarks at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

NEXT WEEK: The Secretary is in DC.

- ☐ 11/13 – Internal Meetings
- ☐ 11/14 – Meeting with Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Sen. Barrasso, Rep. Cheney, and Rep. Cook
- ☐ 11/15 – TENT. Meeting with The Nature Conservancy
  - TENT. Roundtable with Senate Members

- TENT. Gershwin Prize Event
- 11/16 – OTR Breakfast Roundtable with Senators
  - TENT. Museum Dedication Gala
- 11/17 – Internal Meetings

#### **STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: Meeting with Colorado Governor Hickenlooper.

#### **OF NOTE**

**Philadelphia Inquirer-OPINION: Recognizing the Pa. veterans who just donated \$40K to Vietnam War Memorial | Secretary Ryan Zinke**

**November 9, 2017**

Few memorials evoke as strong an emotional response as the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. Like the War itself, the memorial is different from all the others surrounding it. Appropriately, it stirs an overwhelming feeling that you only understand if you've encountered "the Wall."

For those who have never been to experience – and I say experience rather than see – the Vietnam War Memorial, the granite wall is stark, black and seemingly goes on forever as it lists more than 58,000 names of Americans who gave their lives in Vietnam engraved in chronological order. Among the names of the fallen, you'll also see the fingerprints, cheek prints, and tears of their loved ones on the wall. People do not just come to see the wall, they come to touch it and feel the sacrifice of our nation.

As the Secretary of the Interior, I am the steward of our lands, memorials, and monuments. It's my job to oversee our nation's war memorials on the National Mall, which are part of the National Park System. Caring for our Vietnam War Memorial would not be possible without the support of thousands of veterans and their families across the country. On Veterans Day, it is important to recognize the positive impact that veterans have on our nation when they return home, in addition to honoring their service.

Last month, the Butler County American Legion Riders drove down in buses to meet me in Washington, D.C. Led by President Dennis Christie and Treasurer Bill McNutt, the group hand-delivered a \$40,778.28 check for the upkeep of the Vietnam War Memorial as well as building of the future museum.

Their efforts, coupled with those of the Rolling Thunder chapters who wake up at the crack of dawn (sometimes earlier) to wash the wall before thousands of tourists arrive, will help maintain the memorial and will keep the memory of these fallen heroes alive for years to come.

Our nation must never forget the names on the Vietnam Wall. That is why the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial Fund, the nonprofit that built the memorial, has organized the reading of every single name on the Wall from Nov. 7-10 by veterans and the families and friends of loved ones who gave their lives in Vietnam. I'm proud to have participated in the reading this year.

This Veterans Day, I would like to especially recognize the Butler County veterans for sharing their time with me and their generosity with the memorial. After putting their lives on the line for their country, for their brothers and sisters in arms, and for freedom, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsman of Butler County once again gave what they could as civilians – their time and money – to preserving and honoring our nation's fallen.

*U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke is a retired Navy Seal Commander who served from 1986-2008.*

### **Saluting our nation's veterans**

Throughout the years, Interior has forged a deep bond with veterans and the military -- from the Buffalo Soldiers who were early caretakers of Yosemite and Sequoia to the Native Americans and Alaska Natives who serve in the armed forces, to the national memorials, battlefields and cemeteries that help us remember those who have served and sacrificed for our nation.

At Interior, we're also proud to be a leader in hiring veterans who wish to continue to serve their country. To all who have answered their country's call, we appreciate your sacrifice and thank you for your service.

[Watch Secretary Zinke and Interior employees' video tribute for Veterans Day.](#)

**WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Wednesday, 11/8)

### **Press Inquiries:**

- ☐ Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- ☐ **RV News:** (David Rosansky)—**REQUEST--** I am a reporter for RV News, a trade magazine and daily news site for the RV industry. Yesterday, I emailed you trying to confirm information reported in E&E News yesterday. I am trying to confirm that Rick May has been appointed by Secretary Zinke as "Recreation Czar" and Michael Argo has been hired by the Secretary as Deputy Chief of Staff. Apparently, according to the report in E&E News, Interior Secretary Zinke made this announcement at the department's headquarters during an event honoring the 11,000 veterans who work for the Interior Department. However, I see no other independent source for this information. I would like to confirm the validity of the report. Please let me know if Argo and May have been appointed thusly, and the background information for the two individuals. Is this the same Rick May that is currently listed as "Staff Director at US House of Representatives, Committee on the Budget"?--**RESPONSE—** Regarding the E&E article, "recreation czar" was their terminology, not ours. See information on Captain May below. U.S. Navy CAPTAIN (SEAL) Rick May recently joined the Department of the Interior as Senior Adviser to the Secretary of the Interior. He will oversee recreational activities on public

lands, with the aim of creating access and opportunities. Mr. May is a decorated veteran who served in the Iraq War. Since his departure from active duty in 2010, he has worked with wounded Veterans in various types of recreational activities, helping them to reintegrate back into mainstream America. He is a graduate of Sonoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and he also holds a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management. Mr. Argo has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations.

### **Top Stories**

- ☐ **E&E News:** [Zinke launches panel to promote international hunting](#)
- ☐ **E&E News:** [Seeking reinforcements, Zinke turns up heat on Senate](#)
- ☐ **THE HILL:** [Durbin blocks Interior nominees from confirmation](#)
- ☐ **Washington Post:** [The Energy 202: Some Trump environmental picks finally get their day in Congress. Others are still waiting.](#)
- ☐ **Washington Examiner:** [Interior's Zinke has commanding role in honoring Veterans Day](#)

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- ☐ Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- ☐ Today, DOI announced a new FACA board called the International Wildlife Conservation Council. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).
- ☐ Today, DOI published a [blog post](#) highlighting the Native American Code Talkers for Native American Heritage Month and Veterans Day.
- ☐ Today, Secretary Zinke participated in the reading of the names at the Vietnam War memorial on the National Mall. Photos can be seen [HERE](#).
- ☐ Today, Secretary Zinke met with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation.
- ☐ Tomorrow, DOI will have personnel announcements.
- ☐ Friday, Secretary Zinke will visit Manassas Battlefield to honor veterans and tour the battlefield.

### **AGENCY MEDIA**

WEEK AHEAD November 8 thru November 16, 2017 (submitted November 8)

Announcements/Releases/Events

## **U.S. Department of the Interior**

### *Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews*

This week the Secretary is in Washington, D.C.

- ☐ **November 8:** Secretary offered remarks at the closed-press National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Annual Board of Directors Meeting; met with veterans and the PEW Foundation about Infrastructure; and will participate in the reading of names at the Vietnam Memorial, followed by press about Veteran's Day at the Wall.
  - ☐ **November 9:** the Secretary's op-ed honoring Veterans and thanking Buck County veterans for their donation to the Vietnam Wall memorial Foundation should be running in the *Philly Inquirer*. It was cleared by the WH.
  - ☐ **November 10:** Secretary will participate in a Mounted (horseback) Tour of Manassas National Battlefield, including trail repairs with a Boy Scout and a Veteran's Group.
  - ☐ **November 11:** Secretary is scheduled to participate in the washing of Vietnam Memorial with VPOTUS, the Veterans Day Observance at the World War II Memorial, the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, and remarks at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. We expect several media interviews throughout the day.
  - ☐ **November 8:** We announced a new FACA board related to international conservation.
  - ☐ **November 14:** the "Stream Protection Rule" (related to OSMRE) will hit the Federal Register. Communications materials are forthcoming.
  - ☐ **November TBD:** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- December 4: Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act. Communications materials are forthcoming.
- ☐ **November/December TBD:** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Communications materials are forthcoming.

The Secretary stands ready to support the WH on media opportunities to push the President's Tax Reform Agenda. WH has dates/times of availability.

## **Interior Social Media Updates**

- ☐ **November 8:** Department-level blog post: DOI published a blog post highlighting the Native American Code Talkers for Native American Heritage Month and Veterans Day.
- ☐ **November 9:** Department-level video: Department-level video: DOI will release a video with Secretary Zinke for Veterans Day.

## **National Park Service**

- ☐ **November 9:** National NPS Release: NPS will issue a release announcing special events and free admission to parks in commemoration of Veterans Day.



- **November TBD:** Local NPS Release: NPS will announce plans to re-establish operations at Virgin Islands National Park.
- **November 11:** Piscataway Park is working with current concessionaires that provide boating, food and repair services to the public at Fort Washington Marina, to authorize extensions of their temporary contracts. The operation of the marina was transferred from the State of Maryland to the National Park Service (NPS) in November 2016. The NPS is on track to have a long-term operations plan in place for the marina by November 2019 at the end of the 3-year temporary contracts.
- **November 14:** Local NPS Release: Glacier National Park will notify the public of the availability of Glacier National Park's Lake McDonald Properties Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. Following the public review and comment period, the park will prepare a formal decision document. The EA analyzes alternatives to manage NPS-owned properties surrounding Lake McDonald, which includes buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **November 14:** National Joint Release: The U.S. Mint and the NPS will unveil the Indiana quarter at George Rogers Clark NHP. This is the last America the Beautiful Quarter® release scheduled for 2017, and the 40th of the 56-quarter series from the U.S. Mint recognizing national parks or historic sites around the country. Deputy Regional Director Patricia Trap will speak at the event.
- **November 15:** Local NPS Release: Death Valley National Park anticipates the simultaneous release of two Environmental Assessments for a 30-day public review. Public meetings will be held during the public review periods. Both projects address damage that resulted from a major rainstorm and extensive flash flood in 2015.
- **November TBD:** Local NPS Release: NPS NCR will issue news release on upcoming deer management and reduction at three western Maryland parks. All three parks did the same last year with minimal controversy.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **November 8 (tent.):** Local FWS Release: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will announce the final administrative step in the process to repeal regulations that were published in 2016 regarding the non-subsistence take of wildlife, public participation, and closure procedures for national wildlife refuges in Alaska. This administrative step has been taken in response to a congressional resolution to nullify them under the Congressional Review Act, which was signed by the President in April 2017.
- **November 13 (tent.):** National FWS Release: FWS will issue a release on the opening of the public comment for both the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) policy and the corresponding regulations. These notices will solicit public comments on the 2016 revised policy and regulations to determine if there are additional revisions, particularly to the CCAA standard, that will make the policy and regulations easier to implement for those entities choosing to participate in a CCAA.
- **November 13:** Local FWS Release: FWS will announce the reopening of comment period on the proposed rule regarding the threatened species status for San Fernando

Valley Spineflower.

- **November TBD:** FWS News Bulletin: FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants (a type of bird which is considered an invasive species) for aquaculture facilities.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **November 8:** The Department of Justice will host an evidence review of the Erskine Fire at the BLM-CA Bakersfield Office. Attorneys from DOJ, DOI, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and private parties will attend.
- **November 9:** BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will hold an annual public meeting to discuss development and monitoring of performance standards in regard to its Fortification Creek management.
- **November 14-15:** BLM will hold the final scoping meetings for the Notice of Intent to amend Greater sage-grouse land use plans in Vernal and Cedar City, UT, respectively.
- **November 16:** Acting ASLM Kate MacGregor will deliver the keynote address at the Grand Junction Petroleum and Mining Club's monthly meeting in Grand Junction, Colo. Titled DOI's Role in Energy Dominance, her remarks will focus on the Administration's energy-related priorities, including efforts to streamline the environmental review and permitting processes, reduce regulatory burdens on energy development, and boost rural economies through job creation in the energy industry.
- **November 16:** BLM-AK Authorized Officer Erika Reed and Deputy Authorized Officer Dave Mushovic will attend a monthly Senior Leadership meeting for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, hosted by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (the corporation that manages the system).
- **November TBD:** National BLM Release: BLM will issue a release announcing that Sabinoso Wilderness is now open to the public.
- **November TBD:** Local BLM Release: BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.
- **November TBD:** Local BLM Release: BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- **November 8 (tent.):** SUGS will announce that improvements to the quality and usability of Landsat satellite data have been made with the release of a new USGS product called Landsat Analysis Ready Data (ARD). This product will help reduce the time needed to process and analyze data and imagery. This is a significant advantage to scientists studying landscape changes, including changes from wildfires, hurricanes, vegetation

cover, drought and other events.

☐ **November 8:** USGS Media Advisory: USGS will issue a media advisory announcing that groundwater and geology will be surveyed using low-flying helicopter in Southern California to collect and record geophysical measurements for scientific research purposes as part of the California Oil, Gas, & Groundwater Program.

☐ **November 13 (tent.):** The USGS will release the first-ever map of croplands worldwide using 30-m resolution, which is the highest resolution yet. This is a collaborative effort among international agencies. The map will clearly show individual farm fields and cover 1.874 billion hectares of croplands. This is a one-of-a-kind dataset primarily using Landsat satellite data. The map is part of the Global Food Security-Support Analysis Data @ 30-m (GFSAD30) Project. Partners and stakeholders include US federal agencies (NASA, USDA, EPA), Google, universities, and international research groups.

November 13: National USGS Release: USGS will announce the estimated amount of uranium ore in portions of Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The discovery of calcrete deposits by industry led USGS to conduct an assessment. In the process of the assessment, a new species of uranium mineral was discovered by USGS.

☐ **November 15:** National USGS Release: USGS will issue a release announcing the Pecora Awards for Excellence in Earth Observation.

☐ **November TBD:** Local USGS Release: USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

☐ **November TBD:** National Reclamation Release: Reclamation will release two funding opportunity announcements under the Drought Response Program for drought resiliency projects and drought contingency planning. The Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought. It will provide assistance to water users for drought contingency planning and to take actions that will build long-term resiliency to drought.

#### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:**

☐ **November TBD:** BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.

☐ **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.

☐ **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

#### **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement**

☐ **November 9 (tent.):** National NSEE Release: BSEE will issue a press release with a readout of Director's GOM engagement trip.

#### **Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (including Bureau of Indian Affairs)**

- **November 7:** Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda spoke at the Native American Contractors Association in Washington, D.C. He and the Secretary spoke to the BIA Regional Directors as a group for the first time. This was an internal meeting.
- **November 8:** Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda will co-Chair and speak at the Tribal Interior Budget Council meeting held in Washington, DC.
- **November 8:** Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda testifies before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding the S. 1400 STOP Act, Safeguarding Tribal Objects Patrimony Act of 2017.
- **November 9:** Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda participates in a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country Roundtable."
- **November 14:** Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda and Acting Special Trustee Gidner will appear on the Native America Calling radio show to talk about the final deadline the US District Court set for November 27, 2017 for any Class Member or the heir of a Class Member to provide documentation so that payment can be made.
- **November 15:** "Rock Your Mocs (Moccasins) Day!" Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda will participate in the annual Native Youth inspired day by gathering with employee to "Rock Your Mocs!" This will be social media driven with our leadership, staff, and BIE Schools.

### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

**UPCOMING SCIA ROUNDTABLE:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a roundtable entitled "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country." DOI intends to send Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services to participate.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 9, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 212 (Young of AK), expediting Congressional review of tribal funding agreement under ISDEAA; H.R. 2320 (Larsen), land into trust for Samish Indian Nation; and H.R. 3225 (DeFazio), allow certain OR tribes to lease or transfer land. Witness is pending.

**Timing:** Wednesday, November 15

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

**PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT:** Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did nothing on this issue for the last eight years. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.

**Timing:** TBD

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**LETTER TO SENATE LEADERSHIP:** Sec. Zinke will be sending a letter to leaders McConnell and Schumer asking for action on DOI nominees. DOI nominees are facing unprecedented delays, particularly for noncontroversial nominees. The letter will likely garner press attention. WH OCL and Communications offices have signed off.

**Timing:** TBD

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board 64

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- ☐ Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- ☐ Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- ☐ Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- ☐ Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- ☐ Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- ☐ Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- ☐ **TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY:** Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- ☐ Schedule C: 35 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- ☐ NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- ☐ PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

Accepted:

11/9 – National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)

11/10 – Tour of Manassas National Battlefield Park

11/11 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (DC)  
11/11 - 64th Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony (DC)  
11/ 11 - Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial (DC)  
11/21 – US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)  
Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club  
Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

Declining

11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)  
11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)  
11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield, MO)  
11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)  
11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)  
11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)  
11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)  
12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)  
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)  
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)  
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)  
12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)  
12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BIA reports that on November 2, the Director of Court Services of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of the Choctaw Indians responded to an ankle bracelet alarm for an adult male that resided in the Tucker community. Four subjects ran into a residence when the Director arrived and a human body was discovered in a fire pit outside. The Choctaw Police Department (CPD) was contacted and established the crime scene and collected evidence. All four subjects were taken into custody and are being held on Tribal charges at the Choctaw Detention Center. The CPD and FBI are currently investigating the homicide and federal charges are pending.

#### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)

##### **Veterans Day Activities Begin With Reading Of Vietnam Memorial Wall Names.**

GrayDC (11/8, Zampa) reports that the annual reading of names at the Vietnam Memorial Wall was underway as Veterans Day approached. One visitor “who waited in line to read names” was Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Zinke, “a former Navy Seal says the country has gotten better since Vietnam when it comes to respecting our veterans.” Zinke said, “A lot of what I received when I came home is a result of the Vietnam veterans that came before me.” For Veterans Day weekend, Zinke “says he’s visiting the Civil War battlefield at Manassas, Arlington Cemetery,” and returning to DC “to wash the memorial wall.”

##### **Durbin Blocks Interior Nominees From Confirmation.**

The Hill (11/8, Cama) reports Sen. Dick Durbin has halted the confirmation process for “four pending Interior Department nominees over the Trump administration’s plans to potentially shrink multiple national monuments.” Durbin disclosed his actions “in a letter to the Interior Department, after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke sent a public letter complaining about the confirmation process.” Before Durbin wrote his letter on Wednesday, Zinke had “demanded ‘immediate action’ from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) on four pending nominees.”

##### **Charging More For National Parks Is Not A Bad Idea.**

In a piece for the Chicago Tribune (11/8, Chapman), Steve Chapman, a member of the Tribune Editorial Board, supports the Trump Administration’s proposal to raise entrance fees at 17 popular national parks. Chapman calls the fee increase a “minimal burden” for a family that would also be spending on transportation, lodging, food, and souvenirs. Chapman argues that it’s fair to ask those who visit national parks “to kick in a bit more.”

##### **Settlement Reached In Lawsuit Against Bureau Of Land Management.**

KAUZ-TV Wichita Falls, TX (11/8, Forester) reports that Commissioner George P. Bush on Wednesday announced that a settlement has been reached in the lawsuit filed by Red River property owners against the Bureau of Land Management. The agreement “protects both private property rights and the mineral rights of the school children of Texas according to the Texas Land Office.” Under the settlement, the BLM has “agreed the boundary once in dispute is governed by the opinion of the Supreme Court in Oklahoma v. Texas in 1923.”

### **Shell Enchilada Oil Platform In Gulf Of Mexico Shut After Fire.**

Reuters (11/8, Verma, Prasad) reports Shell shuts its Enchilada platform in the Gulf of Mexico after a fire broke out, causing injuries to two people. The Coast Guard said associated production was stopped and that the fire was reduced to a small flame from a pipeline on the platform. The crew of 46 were evacuated to a nearby platform. Shell said that it also shut the Salsa and Auger platforms and nearby fields, along with a 30-inch gas export pipeline. The AP (11/8) reports the Coast Guard said a “light sheen” was spotted in the water north of the platform after the fire started. Shell spokesman Philip Robinson said the workers were safely evacuated. The company released a statement saying, “No harm to people or the environment is ever acceptable and Shell deeply regrets that this incident occurred.” The Coast Guard and BSEE are investigating the cause of the fire.

### **2.4 Million Trees Are Dead In Yosemite National Park.**

The San Francisco Chronicle (11/8, Graff) reports that “there are 2.4 million dead trees within about 131,000 acres” of Yosemite National Park, “according the latest fall count, says park spokesperson Scott Gediman.” Gediman says, “As long as these things have been tracked, it’s the most dead trees we’ve seen in the park.”

### **Honoring Eisenhower At Long Last.**

Roll Call (11/9, Akin) reports that “a memorial to former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, mired in controversy for more than 17 years, is the newest monument under construction on the National Mall.” According to the article, “until the Nov. 2 groundbreaking, some of the most stalwart detractors still hoped that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke would withhold the last approval required before construction could begin.” However, “those hopes were dashed at the last minute when the National Park Service quietly issued a construction permit three days before a groundbreaking ceremony.”

### **Lines Are Drawn Over Design For A National World War I Memorial.**

The New York Times (11/8, Cochrane) reports that a groundbreaking ceremony for the new national World War I memorial is scheduled for Thursday, “but some members of Washington’s architecture community have lingering concerns because its design is not yet final.” According to the article, “the current redesign for Pershing Park – which has received concept approval from the Commission of Fine Arts, National Park Service and the National Capital Planning Commission – features an estimated 65-foot-long sculptural wall with soldiers poised in battle and a smaller, more contained water feature.”



**DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES**

**Video: Secretary Zinke Honors Vietnam War Fallen**

*Download B-roll [HERE](#).*

**WASHINGTON** – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior and retired U.S. Navy SEAL Commander Ryan Zinke participated in the [Reading of the Names](#) and the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. The secretary read 60 names. The event marks the 35th anniversary of The Wall. It spans 3 days and features over a thousand volunteers reading every name of the fallen who are enshrined on The Wall.

Media use B-roll of the scene and the Secretary reading names can be downloaded [here](#).

**FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Sent to the Federal Register on November 8th.

REG0007601 BIA Agency Information Collection Activities; Probate of Indian Estates, Except for Members of the Osage Nation and Five Civilized Tribes -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the Probate of Indian Estates, Except for Members of the Osage Nation and Five Civilized Tribes. The BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/08/2017

REG0007602 BSEE Agency Information Collection Activities; Pipelines and Pipeline Rights-of-Way -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the BSEE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Pipelines and Pipeline Rights-of-Way (30 CFR part 250, subpart J). The BSEE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/08/2017

REG0007603 BSEE Agency Information Collection Activities; Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf for Minerals Other than Oil, Gas, and Sulphur -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the BSEE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf for Minerals Other than Oil, Gas, and Sulphur (30 CFR part 282). The BSEE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/08/2017

REG0007600 FWS Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Issuance of Depredation Permits for Double-crested Cormorants -- The Service is publishing a Notice of Availability to advise the public of the completion of an environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for a proposal to make decisions on depredation permit applications for the annual take of up to 51,571 double-crested cormorants across 37 central and eastern States and the District of Columbia. Notice 11/08/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison  
Department of the Interior  
202.208.1694



**To:** Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; John Tanner[john\_tanner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Natalie Davis[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Mashburn, Lori  
**Sent:** 2017-11-30T13:26:28-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/30  
**Received:** 2017-11-30T13:27:18-05:00  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-30-17.docx](#)

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/30/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

### **STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

NEXT WEEK: In DC and Louisiana

- 11/30 National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 12/1 New Orleans, Louisiana Site visit with BSEE/BOEM Leadership
  - o BOEM/BSEE All Hands Meeting
  - o Baton Rouge, LA - Dinner with Senator Cassidy and other stakeholders
- 12/2 Baton Rouge, LA Briefing with local officials at Center for Coastal and Deltaic Studies (Senator Cassidy and Kennedy in attendance)
  - o Thibodaux, LA Meeting with wetlands stakeholders at Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center
  - o Airboat Tour with Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion
  - o Dinner with local stakeholders

### **STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and the Environment on Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018 Hurricane

Supplemental Funding

**WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Tuesday, 11/28)

- N/A

**AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD November 22 thru November 30, 2017 (submitted 11/21)**

Announcements/Releases/Events

**U.S. Department of the Interior**

*Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews* The Secretary will be on personal leave in MT starting tomorrow (Wednesday) and returning Monday evening.

- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **December TBD:** BOEM will announce the 5 Year Program. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP.
- **December TBD:** Arctic EA and proposed rule. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP. Alaskan delegation is supportive.

**National Park Service**

- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

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- **November 30 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the solicitation of input from the scientific community and the broader public on draft criteria set for the eventual recovery of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear. The NCDE region encompasses Glacier National Park and other parts of northwestern Montana.
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- **November 30:** BLM-AK will provide a monthly Right-of-Way application

update on the Donlin Gold project to Donlin Gold representatives. BLM-AK Planning and Environmental Specialist Laurie Thorpe and Anchorage Field Office Manager Bonnie Million will present the update.

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- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar for the New York Bight being hosted on December 4, 2017.

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- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

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- **November 28-30:** The 27th Annual Bureau of Indian Affairs Providers Conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska. This is a program driven conference with hundreds of Alaska Native Leaders and BIA program managers. The new BIA Director, Byran Rice will address the conference as well as other BIA leadership.

- **November 29-30:** Acting Assistant Secretary Tahsuda will participate and speaks at the Second North American Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous women and Girls. He will be one of the senior members of the U.S. delegation that will include representatives from DOJ and DOS.

### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on H.R. 4419 (Rep. Newhouse), the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act. Alan Mikkelsen, the Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation, will be the witness.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs irs

**UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Thursday, December 6, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on 4 bills. H.R. 1675 (Rep. DelBene), to establish a national program to identify and reduce landslide hazards, H.R. 4033 (Rep. Lamborn) to reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, a Discussion Draft amending the Geothermal Stream Act of 1970, and a Discussion Draft establishing a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System. Dave Applegate, Acting Deputy Director of USGS, will be witness.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Blake Deeley, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING:** The House Interior Appropriations subcommittee will be holding a hearing regarding the Administration's Hurricane Supplemental request. David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary will be testifying on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
  - Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
  - Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
  - Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
  - Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- Overall:
- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
  - NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
  - PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

#### Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)  
2/9 Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)  
3/6-7 CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 — DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

#### Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)  
1/4 Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)  
1/26-28 Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)  
1/29 Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)  
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)  
2/12 The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

#### Declining

12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)  
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)  
12/5 NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)  
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)  
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)  
12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)  
12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)  
12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)  
12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)  
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)  
2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

N/A

### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)

#### **Trump To Announce Reductions To Two National Monuments: Reports.**

The Washington Times (11/29, Morton) cites a report from the Salt Lake Tribune which said that during a visit to Utah next week, President Trump will “announce his approval of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation that two national monuments be shrunk.” The Tribune cited “sources familiar with the trip,” who said Trump “will reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments.”

#### **Pechanga Band Celebrates Execution Of First Water Settlement In The Trump Era.**

The Nation Sun News (11/29) reports that “the first tribal water rights settlement” of the Trump Administration has been executed by the Interior Department. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “signed the agreement with Marc Macarro, the chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday afternoon.” Zinke said in a press release after the signing ceremony, “The federal government has a critical responsibility to uphold our trust responsibilities, especially tribal water rights. This is why we are continuing to work on Indian water settlements with tribes, states, and all water users to ensure there is certainty for all and an opportunity for economic development in local communities.”

#### **Oil Drilling In Alaska Refuge Hits Snag Over Budget Protocol.**

Bloomberg News (11/29, Natter, Wasson) reports the GOP’s move to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling faces a potential snag over a budget protocol, which may mean the measure would not be included in the tax overhaul legislation. Senate Democrats say the provision opening the region violates the Byrd Rule, which limits budget procedures to measures that are mainly fiscal in nature. The Senate parliamentarian ruled the ANWR provision, as it is written now, can be subject to a point of order which would require 60 votes to waive. Republicans are now working with the parliamentarian to find a way around the rule.

#### **Arizona Coal Plant To Stay Open Through 2019.**

The Hill (11/29, Cama) reports “the coal-fired Navajo Generating Station has obtained



the approval it needs to stay open through 2019.” The Salt River Project “announced Wednesday that the federal Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs had completed their environmental review of the lease extension.” The owners of the plant “lease the plant’s land from the Navajo Nation.” Originally, they had planned “to close it this year, but the Trump administration and the Navajo Nation pushed for a renewal, and the other utilities involved agreed to it.”

### **US Adopts Recovery Plan For Mexican Wolves, Lawsuit Planned.**

The AP (11/29, Bryan) reports that “after decades of legal challenges and political battles that have pitted states against the federal government, U.S. wildlife managers on Wednesday finally adopted a plan to guide the recovery of a wolf that once roamed parts of the American Southwest and northern Mexico.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “considered tens of thousands of public comments from state lawmakers and business groups to independent scientists and environmentalists as it worked to meet a court-ordered deadline to craft the recovery plan.” Sherry Barrett, the Mexican wolf recovery coordinator, said, “This plan really provides us a roadmap for where we need to go to get this species recovered and delisted and get its management turned back over to the states and tribes.”

**MARKING ON UP:** House Natural Resources gavels in today at 10 a.m. to mark up seven bills on various topics, but two jump out to ME. One measure H.R. 1778 (115), offered by Liz Cheney, would require specific congressional authorization for Interior to impose any moratorium on federal coal leasing. (Remember, the Trump administration overturned an Obama-era ban earlier this year.) The other, H.R. 3117 (115) from Evan Jenkins, would bar EPA, DOE or Interior from using the social cost of carbon (or similar metrics) that are used to estimate monetary damage the country faces from climate change events linked to greenhouse gas emissions.

### **DOI PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Interior Executes Water Rights Settlement Agreement with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians**

**WASHINGTON** U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Mark Macarro, Chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians today signed the Pechanga Water Rights Settlement Agreement (Agreement), formally executing a Congressionally authorized pact that protects the Pechanga Band’s access to groundwater in the region and provides the tribe with more than \$30 million in federal funding to pay for water storage projects.

The Agreement quantifies the water rights claims for the Pechanga Band in Southern California’s Temecula Valley, which had been pending in an adjudication dating back to the 1950s; resolves potential liability for both the United States and other parties; and establishes a cooperative and efficient water management regime involving Pechanga and local agencies.

“The Federal Government has a critical responsibility to uphold our trust responsibilities, especially Tribal water rights,” **Secretary Zinke said**. “This is why we are continuing to work on Indian Water Settlements with Tribes, States, and all water users to ensure there is certainty for all and an opportunity for economic development in local communities. As a former State Senator and Congressman who helped usher the Blackfeet compact through to fruition, I understand all too well the hard work and enormous struggle that goes into making these important water rights settlements possible. I congratulate all of you for your perseverance, dedication, and commitment to making this settlements happen.”

“The Pechanga Band has tirelessly pursued the quantification of its water rights and, through negotiations, engaged its neighbors in a multiyear process of building mutual trust and understanding,” **said Pechanga Chairman Macarro**. “Generations of tribal leaders have fought from the courts to Capitol Hill to protect this vital resource for future generations. This settlement agreement benefits all of the parties by securing adequate water supplies for the Pechanga Band and its members and encouraging cooperative water resources management among all of the parties.”

Zinke commended the congressional sponsors of the Settlement Act legislation, saying they “fought to bring these settlements across the finish line.” The agreement introduced by Rep. Ken Calvert, (R-Corona) settles competing claims involving the Rancho California Water District and the Eastern Municipal Water District, which both draw from the large aquifer in the region that stretches 750 square miles from Southwest Riverside County to north San Diego County .

“For the tribe, local community, and the many federal employees who have contributed to these settlements, seeing these agreements signed is the culmination of years of dedication and hard work. I think we all recognize that this is just the start of the journey towards settlement finality,” **Zinke said**.

“The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, as well as all of the parties to this settlement, deserve to have some certainty on the future of their water supply,” **Rep. Calvert said**. “I’m grateful we have been able to enact the settlement and ensure all of the stakeholders in the Santa Margarita River Watershed can better shape their future.”

Interior is in the initial stages of implementing the Settlement Act, which was enacted as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (P.L. 114-322) in 2016. The Departments of Justice and Interior have an established protocol for processing settlement agreements for execution.

The Act and Agreement establishes the Pechanga Settlement Fund and authorizes the appropriation of about \$3 million to be deposited into the fund to construct a storage pond. The legislation also authorizes the appropriation of about \$26 million, with about \$4 million in construction overrun costs, to build interim and permanent capacity for water storage, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Also attending today’s event were Pechanga Council Members, including Catalina R. Chacon; Robert Munoa; Russell Murphy; Marc Luker; Raymond Basquez Jr. and Michael Vasquez. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhard and Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason also joined the ceremony.

Water resources and management of scarce water supplies are central concerns in the Western states. Additionally, in many parts of the West, water resources are now either fully appropriated or over-appropriated. These situations underscore the need for cooperative management of water supplies, and highlight the important role that Indian water rights settlements can play in the West.

**FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Sent to the Federal Register on November 27th.

REG0007651 FWS 12-Month Findings on Petitions to List Four Species as Endangered or Threatened Species -- FWS completed 12-month findings on petitions requesting listing of the following four species under the Endangered Species Act, and determined they are not warranted for listing: Blackfin sucker, Mohave shoulderband snail, White-tailed prairie dog, and Woodville Karst cave crayfish. Notice 11/29/2017

REG0007663 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA; Correction N2885 --This Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) corrects an inventory of associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts. The objects were removed from the Mansion Inn site in Wayland, Massachusetts. Notice 11/29/2017

REG0007664 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC N2887 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, in Washington, DC. The cultural items meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/29/2017

REG0007665 OS Notice of Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board Appointments -- This Notice provides the names of individuals who have been appointed to serve as members of the Department of the Interior Senior Executive Service (SES) Performance Review Board as stipulated by 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4). Notice 11/29/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
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**To:** Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; John Tanner[john\_tanner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Natalie Davis[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Mashburn, Lori  
**Sent:** 2017-11-27T13:48:52-05:00  
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**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

NEXT WEEK: In DC and Louisiana

- 11/27 Personal Leave
- 11/28 Meeting with Jeff Crane, Congressional Sportsmen Foundation
- 11/29 TENT. Memorial Bridge Event with DOT Secretary Chao
  - o Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony and Reception
- 11/30 National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 12/1 Travel to Louisiana

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Meet with Grover Norquist.
- Participate in Deputies meeting on Infrastructure Initiative at EEOB

**WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Friday, 11/17)

- N/A

**AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD November 22 thru November 30, 2017 (submitted 11/21)**

## Announcements/Releases/Events

### U.S. Department of the Interior

*Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews* The Secretary will be on personal leave in MT starting tomorrow (Wednesday) and returning Monday evening.

- **November 29:** The Secretary will participate in the White House Native American/Veterans event. Later he will also participate in a Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony.
- **November 29 (TBD):** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- **November 27/29 (TBD):** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Pending WH review.
- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **December TBD:** BOEM will announce the 5 Year Program. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP.
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### Interior Social Media Updates

- **November 22: Department-level Video:** DOI will release a video with Secretary Zinke for Thanksgiving. The video will be sent out via email to the general public and all DOI employees. The video will also be shared on DOI's social media accounts.

### National Park Service

- **November 27: National NPS Release:** NPS will announce the new superintendent at Nez Perce National Historical Park.
- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

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#### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **November 24: Local BLM Release:** BLM Colorado will issue a release regarding a \$6-per-vehicle fee proposal for Guffey Gorge in Colorado.
- **November 24: Local BLM Release:** BLM Utah will issue a release regarding the opening of a public comment period on the Greater Chapita Wells Oil and Gas Infill Project in Utah.
- **November 24:** The opening of a public comment period for the supplemental environmental analysis on a proposal to expand and modernize the U.S. Gypsum Company's mine in Imperial County, California will appear in the Federal Register Reading Room. BLM California will have an if-asked statement prepared.
- **November 27(tent.):** BLM-CO is tentatively planning to release an environmental assessment of a community-based proposal for an off-highway vehicle trail system for public review. Rio Blanco County submitted the Wagon Wheel West OHV Trail proposal to BLM to increase trail system-based recreation throughout the county and northwestern Colorado.
- **November 30:** BLM-AK will provide a monthly Right-of-Way application update on the Donlin Gold project to Donlin Gold representatives. BLM-AK Planning and Environmental Specialist Laurie Thorpe and Anchorage Field Office Manager Bonnie Million will present the update.
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#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

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**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on 4 bills. H.R. 1675 (Rep. DelBene), to establish a national program to identify and reduce landslide hazards, H.R. 4033 (Rep. Lamborn) to reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, a Discussion Draft amending the Geothermal Stream Act of 1970, and a Discussion Draft establishing a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System. Dave Applegate, Acting Deputy Director of USGS, will be witness.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Blake Deeley, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HOGH SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING:** The House Oversight and Government Reform Intergovernmental and Interior subcommittees will be holding a joint subcommittee hearing on "Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check-In: Part III". This is a series of oversight hearings on the implementation of President Trump's Executive Order 13771 (Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs) and Executive Order 13777 "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda." David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary will be testifying on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

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#### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

· **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:



- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
  - Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
  - Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
  - Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
  - Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
  - Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- Overall:
- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
  - NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
  - PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

#### Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)  
2/9 Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)  
3/6-7 CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 — DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

#### Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)  
1/4 Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)  
1/26-28 Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)  
1/29 Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)  
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)  
2/12 The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

#### Declining

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)  
12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)  
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)  
12/5 NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)  
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)  
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)  
12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)  
12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)  
12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)  
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)  
2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Significant rainfall resulted in river flooding and damage to roadways at Olympic National Park in Washington. A Type-III Incident Command Team was established to coordinate closures and evacuations on November 23. Park facilities at the Hoh Rain Forest and Staircase have been evacuated of all staff members, volunteers, and visitors. While evacuations were not required, flooding of Olympic Hot Springs Road resulted in the closure of the Elwha area of the park as well. These areas will remain closed to all vehicle traffic until flooding subsides and road access can be restored.

### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)

#### **Documents Show Involvement Of Zinke's Wife On Official Trip.**

CNN (11/21, Killough, Wallace) reported the advocacy group Western Values Project, through a Freedom of Information Act request, obtained a batch of government documents and emails that show Department of Interior staffers accommodating a "a last-minute change in Lolita Zinke's travel itinerary during a May trip to Alaska, Norway and Greenland." According to the documents, when a staffer learned that Lolita Zinke would be leaving Alaska to return to Washington, DC on a different date from that previously scheduled, the staffer emailed another staffer: "UGH! We have all kinds of planes, trains and automobiles manifests to now scramble with." In an exchange of emails, aides "also discussed...that Lolita Zinke would need to pay her own way to attend an event hosted by the governor of Alaska, which included a meal." Multiple emails indicate that Secretary Zinke "acknowledged that he would personally pay for his wife's meal."

#### **The Energy 202: Internal Watchdog Says Interior Should Focus On Climate Change. It Isn't.**

An analysis by the Washington Post (11/22, Grandoni) "PowerPost" blog reported the Interior's Office of the Inspector General listed climate change among the "most significant management and performance challenges" facing the department in an report released last week. The Trump Administration, however, "has taken few if any steps to address the emerging threat." Rather, under the leadership of Secretary Ryan Zinke, the department "has reoriented its mission around boosting the extraction of fossil fuels and other resources on the more than 500 million acres under

its management as part of the Trump administration's sweeping 'energy dominance' agenda." The Post analysis also said the Bureau of Indian Affairs "has scrubbed mentions of climate change from the website of its Tribal Climate Resilience Program (now just 'Tribal Resilience Programs'), which helped tribes study climate change impacts."

### **Putting The 'Education' Back In Bureau Of Indian Education.**

Sue Parton, president of the Federation of Indian Service Employees, writes in the Oklahoman (11/26, Parton) that for too long, the Bureau of Indian Education, the Department of the Interior, Congress, "and other agencies have neglected the very real problems that have done a disservice to Native students in their schools, including off-reservation Indian boarding schools." Parton says that BIE schools "continue to wrestle with low student achievement; punitive, ineffective ways to address discipline and safety issues; a lack of social, emotional and health care services; staff turnover and poor morale; retaliation against whistleblowers; opaque rather than transparent decision making; and a lack of true accountability." To overcome these obstacles, Parton proposes community schools, which "educate the whole child, working with community partners that provide programs and services to take on not just educational improvements but the complex problems that hinder good outcomes."

### **Candidate To Lead US Land Agency: No Advocate Of Transfers.**

The AP (11/26, Gruver) reported Karen Budd-Falen, a candidate to lead the Bureau of Land Management, "says environmentalists mischaracterize her as an advocate of" signing over public lands "to state and local governments and private interests when in fact she's got no opinion on the issue." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift "declined to say whether Budd-Falen was still a candidate or when somebody might be nominated for the director job, which has been vacant since January." The AP noted Bunn-Falen "and her husband, Frank Falen, have a practice with four other attorneys" that focuses "largely on ranchers and property rights anything from easements to oil and gas leases and how to comply with government regulations." According to the AP, her past clients included Cliven Bundy.

### **NRA, Hunting Group Say Grizzly Bear Hunts Needed For Safety.**

The AP (11/25, Brown) reported the National Rifle Association and Safari Club International have "want to ensure their members can hunt grizzly bears in the three-state region around Yellowstone National Park after the animals lost U.S. protections." In response to conservation groups suing the US Fish and Wildlife Service for revoking the species' threatened status in July, the NRA and SCI "asked U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen to let them intervene in the case." The hunting groups argued in "affidavits submitted by their attorneys that hunting would help the region's economy, allow states to better manage the animals and improve public safety."

### **Right And Left Wings Battle Over Migratory Bird Treaty.**

E&E Publishing (11/22, Doyle) reported that federal officials may be banned from “pursuing companies whose operations incidentally kill migratory birds, under a two-pronged maneuver now advancing publicly on Capitol Hill and quietly inside the Interior Department.” The Migratory Bird Treaty Act “prohibits the unauthorized taking of more than 800 species of migratory birds.” The US Fish and Wildlife Service “currently contends this includes killing that is ‘incidental’ to industrial or commercial activities, regardless of the corporate actors’ intentions.” Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) is “leading one effort to steer the law in industry’s direction” by adding an amendment into the “SECURE America Energy Act” that specifies accidental or incidental take was not covered by the MBTA. A “related effort” could also “be afoot in the office of Interior’s solicitor. There, attorneys appointed in the Trump administration are second-guessing a key legal opinion issued by their predecessors” regarding the MBTA.

### **Montana Monument May Expand Under Trump Administration.**

NPR (11/26, Hegyi) reported that this past summer, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended Montana’s Badger Two-Medicine “become a new national monument, and President Donald Trump is expected to announce decisions about monuments in December.” The designation “would protect more than 200 square miles of federal land from any future oil and gas development.” NPR discusses Zinke’s ties to Montana, saying that while he has “encouraged mining, drilling and reducing the size of national monuments elsewhere in the country, he’s left existing national monuments in Montana alone and he’s urged mining bans near Yellowstone National Park.” The Huffington Post (11/27, Papenfuss) also reports on this story.

### **National Park Service Doesn’t Object To Sale Of Trump Wine At Park.**

CNN (11/22, Wallace) reported the National Park Service does not object to selling bottles from Trump Winery at a gift shop in Shenandoah National Park. National Park Service spokesman Jeremy Barnum explained the gift store is managed by a private company. Barnum said, “The concessioner has been selling wine from the distributor of this particular winery in Virginia for years.” While NPS decides what types of products the shops may sell, the agency “does not specify what brands of these products should be sold.”

### **National Parks Reopen In U.S. Virgin Islands Following Hurricanes.**

The Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR) (11/22) reported the Department of the Interior announced Tuesday that the “Christiansted National Historic Site and Buck Island Reef National Monument on the island of St. Croix, and Trunk Bay Beach at Virgin Islands National Park on the island of St. John have reopened following lengthy closures because of damage wrought on the parks by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.” Interior Secretary Zinke said, “I couldn’t be more proud of the hard work of National Park Service staff, volunteers, and their partners in the Virgin Islands. Their commitment to the park and to the community is inspiring. I’ve heard many stories of staff tending to the needs of the park and their neighbors before even taking care of themselves.” Governor Kenneth Mapp said, “The reopening of Buck Island Reef

National Monument, Trunk Bay Beach, and Christiansted National Historic Site represents another significant milestone in the recovery of the U.S. Virgin Islands.”

### **Op-ed: The Facts About Multiple Land Use In Utah.**

Don Peay, founder of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, wrote in the Deseret (UT) News (11/26, Paey) that “we are grateful that President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke are coming to Utah, to hopefully restore multiple use status to our great public lands — lands and herds we want to pass on in abundance for future generations.” Peay claims hunting and fishing a \$2.3 billion Utah industry, and with “careful management and hundreds of millions of investment, we have proven we can have it all, energy, mining, ranching, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing and tourism.” According to Peay, the “Grand Staircase and Bears Ears monuments have been damaging to habitat restoration projects, and fortunately these herds were established before monument status.” He also criticizes out-of-state “environmental groups” for not contributing “one dime to restore Utah’s herds or improve our great state and federal lands.”

### **DOI PRESS RELEASES**

#### **San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico Reopening Areas to Visitors**

*Iconic historic sites generate tourism revenue for area*

**WASHINGTON** U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and the National Park Service (NPS) today announced that the NPS has resumed normal operations and public tours at the visitor center and Castillo San Cristóbal area of San Juan National Historic Site. Castillo San Felipe del Morro is expected to reopen as early as next week. The National Park Service is an important tourism factor in Puerto Rico, generating more than \$100 million in economic activity every year for the island. In 2016, more than 1.4 million people visited NPS sites in Puerto Rico, spurring more than \$85 million in visitor spending. The 1,065 jobs the park visitors supported created more than a \$100 million in economic output and \$40 million in income.

On September 20, Category 5 Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico causing damage to the historic fortifications at San Juan National Historic Site and forcing closures at the site. Since that time the NPS has been working to repair and restore the site and to ensure that facilities are safe for visitors and employees.

“For over 400 years, Castillo San Felipe del Morro has stood as guardian and symbol of Puerto Rico’s heritage, and it’s also a major tourism attraction for visitors from all over the world” **said Secretary Zinke**. “I’m incredibly proud of the National Park Service and entire Interior family who have been working nonstop to reopen this important cultural and tourism attraction. Part of rebuilding communities means rebuilding revenue streams so folks can get back to work, earn a living, and care for their families. The National Park Service will continue to work closely with the people of Puerto Rico to restore life into this vibrant community.”

**The governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rosselló, said,** “with the announcement of

the reopening of these spaces we show that we are en route to the recovery of our Island. The San Cristóbal Castle and San Felipe del Morro Castle are part of the historical and cultural heritage of Puerto Rico, essential spaces to continue promoting tourism as part of our economy. We invite all Puerto Ricans and visitors to continue enjoying the national historic sites of our Island."

San Juan National Historic Site is comprised of Castillo San Felipe del Morro, Castillo San Cristóbal, Fort San Juan de La Cruz (El Cañuelo), La Puerta de San Juan and most of the city wall. The park is open every day from 9:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

It is anticipated that Castillo San Felipe del Morro will open on Monday, November 27, 2017. On Saturday, December 2, 2017, the park is planning to host a community reopening event for the public.

For a complete listing of times and dates for activities at San Juan National Historic Site, follow the park on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SanJuanNPS/> or visit the park's website <http://www.nps.gov/saju/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm>.

#### **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Sent to the Federal Register on November 22nd.

REG0007646 BLM Notice of Public Meeting: Utah Resource Advisory Council -- The Utah Resource Advisory Council is scheduled to meet December 11-12, 2017. Notice 11/22/2017

Sent to the Federal Register on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

REG0006932 BLM Notice of Intent to Collect Fees on Public Land at the Guffey Gorge Day-Use Area in Park County, CO -- Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), the BLM is proposing to begin collecting fees for a Standard Amenity Day-Use Site in the Guffey Gorge Day-Use Area in Park County, Colorado. This Notice requests public comments on the proposal over 90 days. The BLM will begin collecting fees six months after publication of this Notice, absent notice to the contrary. Notice 11/21/2017

REG0007559 FWS Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the Lalamilo Wind Farm Repowering Project, Island of Hawaii, HI -- FWS received an application from the Lalamilo Wind Company, LLC (applicant), for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant is requesting an ITP to authorize take of the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat and the endangered Hawaiian Petrel. Notice 11/21/2017

REG0007624 FWS Revision of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Contest Regulations -- FWS is revising a previous proposal to revise regulations governing the annual Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Contest. The proposal consists of further updates to the scientific names of species on our list of contest design subjects, updates to recognize technological

advances in stamp design and printing, and proposed requirements specific to the 2018 contest. Proposed Rule 11/21/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison  
Department of the Interior  
202.208.1694

**To:** Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt(b) (6)@ios.doi.gov; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; John Tanner[john\_tanner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Natalie Davis[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Mashburn, Lori  
**Sent:** 2017-11-29T13:35:09-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/29  
**Received:** 2017-11-29T13:35:57-05:00  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-29-17.docx](#)

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/29/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

NEXT WEEK: In DC and Louisiana

- 11/29 Meeting with Space X and Boring Company
  - o Meeting with House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior Chair Ken Calvert
  - o Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony
  - o White House State, Local, and Tribal Veterans Reception
- 11/30 National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 12/1 New Orleans, Louisiana Site visit with BSEE/BOEM Leadership
  - o BOEM/BSEE All Hands Meeting
  - o Baton Rouge, LA - Dinner with Senator Cassidy and other stakeholders
- 12/2 Baton Rouge, LA Briefing with local officials at Center for Coastal and Deltaic Studies (Senator Cassidy and Kennedy in attendance)
  - o Thibodaux, LA Meeting with wetlands stakeholders at Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center
  - o Airboat Tour with Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration



Authority of Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion

- o Dinner with local stakeholders

### **STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and the Environment and the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform Committee

### **WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Tuesday, 11/28)

#### **Press Inquiries:**

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **\*Multiple Inquiries\*** (ABC, NBC, CBS, E&E, The HILL)—**General REQUEST--** Wondering if you have any guidance on this report from the Salt Lake Tribune...President Donald Trump will fly into Utah on Monday to announce that he'll shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, sources familiar with the trip confirmed to The Salt Lake Tribune.—**RESPONSE--** We have nothing to announce on either the monument report or the Secretary's schedule but I will keep you on the list of folks to update.
- **E&E News:** (Scott Streater)—**REQUEST--** BLM Idaho state director Tim Murphy is retiring in January after 37 years at the agency. I need to double check: This has nothing to do with any agency reorganization, right? I'm sure some will say so, and if it is, fine, but if it's not, I need to make that clear. --**RESPONSE--** I have no information on an employee's personal decision to retire.
- **Western Livestock Journal:** (Rae Price)—**REQUEST--** I am seeing numerous stories circulating that Karen Budd-Falen is a candidate for the BLM director position. Has Secretary Zinke officially named her as a candidate? If not, is there any indication of when that might happen?—**RESPONSE--** Neither the President nor the Secretary have nominated somebody to the position.

#### **Top Stories**

- **Washington Post:** [Trump to visit Utah on Monday to announce his plans to shrink Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments](#)
- **Salt Lake Tribune:** [Trump will shrink Bears Ears during Utah visit Monday and five tribes promise to sue him that same day](#)
- **Newsmax:** [Zinke Remains Trump Cabinet's Most Deplorable Member](#)

#### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane

Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.

- Today, Secretary Zinke met with Jeff Crane of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.
- Tomorrow, Secretary Zinke will participate in the White House Native American/Veterans event. Later he will also participate in a Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony.
- Thursday, Secretary Zinke will participate in the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony with POTUS.
- This Weekend, Secretary Zinke will go to Louisiana to meet with many Congressional members and the Governor.

## **AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD November 22 thru November 30, 2017 (submitted 11/21)**

Announcements/Releases/Events

### **U.S. Department of the Interior**

*Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews* The Secretary will be on personal leave in MT starting tomorrow (Wednesday) and returning Monday evening.

- **November 29:** The Secretary will participate in the White House Native American/Veterans event. Later he will also participate in a Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony.
- **November 29 (TBD):** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- **November 27/29 (TBD):** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Pending WH review.
- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **December TBD:** BOEM will announce the 5 Year Program. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP.
- **December TBD:** Arctic EA and proposed rule. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP. Alaskan delegation is supportive.

### **National Park Service**

- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **November 30 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the solicitation of input from the scientific community and the broader public on draft criteria set for the eventual recovery of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear. The NCDE region encompasses Glacier National Park and other parts of northwestern Montana.
- **November 30 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **November 30:** BLM-AK will provide a monthly Right-of-Way application update on the Donlin Gold project to Donlin Gold representatives. BLM-AK Planning and Environmental Specialist Laurie Thorpe and Anchorage Field Office Manager Bonnie Million will present the update.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **November 29:** Reclamation Pacific Northwest Regional Director Lorri Gray will speak at the Oregon Water Resources Congress Annual Conference in Hood River, Oregon.

### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar for the New York Bight being hosted on December 4, 2017.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting for Virginia and North Carolina being held on December 7, 2017.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the

Liberty EIS comment period.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- **November 28-30:** The 27th Annual Bureau of Indian Affairs Providers Conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska. This is a program driven conference with hundreds of Alaska Native Leaders and BIA program managers. The new BIA Director, Byran Rice will address the conference as well as other BIA leadership.
- **November 29-30:** Acting Assistant Secretary Tahsuda will participate and speaks at the Second North American Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous women and Girls. He will be one of the senior members of the U.S. delegation that will include representatives from DOJ and DOS.

**CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on H.R. 4419 (Rep. Newhouse), the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act. Alan Mikkelsen, the Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation, will be the witness.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs irs

**UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

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12/5 NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)  
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)  
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)  
12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)  
12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)  
12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)  
12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)  
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)  
2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

N/A

**OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)**Trump To Visit Utah Next Week, Expected To Announce Monument Decision.**

Reuters (11/28, Holland, Rampton, Volcovici) reports that President Trump “is expected to announce his decision on whether to reduce the size of two national monuments” where drilling and mining are currently banned during a visit to Utah on Monday. Environmental groups and Native American tribal organizations are planning to protest Trump’s visit, and legal challenges are expected over the decision. Meanwhile, industry groups like the American Petroleum Institute “have said in the past that both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante were unfairly designated as monuments and needed to be reviewed.”

The AP (11/28) reports that Sen. Orrin Hatch’s spokesman Matt Whitlock “said Tuesday that the president accepted Hatch’s invitation to visit Utah to discuss Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments.” Hatch and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “say Trump called them in October to announce he would approve Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation to downsize the two monuments protecting more than 3.6 million acres (14,600 square kilometers).”

Also reporting are the Washington Post (11/28, Eilperin), the Washington Examiner (11/28, Siegel), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/29, Burr), the San Juan (UT) Record (11/28), the Deseret (UT) News (11/28, Roche), the Aspen (CO) Times (11/28, Condon), the Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (11/28, Burr), the Westerner (11/28, DuBois), KSL-TV Salt Lake City Salt Lake City (11/28, Roch), and KNRS-FM Salt Lake City Salt Lake City (11/28).

**Eni Receives Federal Permit For US Arctic Offshore Drilling.**

The AP (11/28, Joling) reports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has approved an application from Eni to drill exploratory wells in the Beaufort Sea. Drilling could begin next month from Spy Island as Eni plans to use extended-reach drilling methods to hit submerged land. BSEE’s Alaska region director Mark Fesmire said the agency conducted a thorough review of Eni’s well design, testing procedures and safety protocol before approving the plans.

Reuters (11/28, Gardner) reports BSEE director Scott Angelle said developing Arctic resources is a “critical component to achieving American energy dominance.” Environmentalists criticized the move, with the legal director for oceans at the Center for Biological Diversity Kristen Monsell saying, “The Trump administration is risking a major oil spill by letting this foreign corporation drill in the unforgiving waters off Alaska.”

**GOP Closes In On Opening Arctic Wildlife Refuge To Drilling.**

The Wall Street Journal (11/28, Puko) reports the GOP is closer to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as the tax reform bill moves to the Senate floor. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources passed a bill to open ANWR drilling earlier this month and the Budget Committee approved the measure. However, the House has not passed a similar provision, but leaders from both chambers will likely negotiate over whether to include it in the final tax bill. The Seattle Times (11/28, Mapes, Bernton) reports Sen. Maria Cantwell has promised to make every effort to stop the measure. She said, "We are going to have to fight on the floor to try to stop this. ... It's a backdoor process that only needs 51 votes. They would never get it in the normal process."

### **Legal Challenges Mount As Clock Ticks On Elephant Decision.**

E&E Publishing (11/28, Doyle) reports that the Interior Department is "still struggling amid growing legal challenges to work out what to do about elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia." The decision by President Trump is likely to attract legal challenges. In a suit filed this week, Friends of Animals and the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force "challenged the Fish and Wildlife Service's original decision earlier this month to lift the 3-year-old ban on the elephant trophy imports." And "a reversal of the Fish and Wildlife Service's extensively studied decision to lift the ban could invite a legal challenge from critics claiming the U-turn was 'arbitrary and capricious' and violated the Administrative Procedure Act."

### **Have An Opinion About The Proposed Fee Hikes For Popular National Parks? The Comment Period Has Been Extended.**

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/29, Maffly) reports that "in the face of intense public interest, much of it critical," the National Park Service is has extended the public comment period to "on its controversial proposal to boost entrance fees to \$70 per vehicle at its most popular parks." The NPS is "now accepting comments for a second month, until Dec. 22, as it weighs whether to implement the proposal, amend it or abandon it in favor of solutions that don't rely so heavily on visitors."

Meanwhile, Arizona Public Media (11/28, Sieg) reports that Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich has "joined 10 of his counterparts in other states across the country in opposition to the price hike." According to the article, "in a letter addressed to the acting director of the National Park Service, the attorneys general quote naturalist John Muir, who once wrote that people need 'beauty as well as bread.'"

### **Governor: CW Issue Needs US Congressional Action.**

Marianas Variety (11/27, Todiño) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres on Thursday "reiterated the need for U.S. congressional action to address the CNMI's lack of workers." Last week, "despite the pleas of the CNMI government and business community to reduce it by only one, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reduced the number of CW-1 permits for fiscal year 2018 by 3,000 — to 9,998 from 12,998." Torres "said he will continue to communicate with U.S. Congressman



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan 'make every effort to introduce' legislation in the U.S. Congress"

**ANWR SLIPPING THROUGH BELOW THE SURFACE?** With Senate Republicans barreling towards a floor vote on their [tax package](#) as soon as this week, Democrats are worried their battle to keep oil and gas drilling out of the untouched Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is being lost in the broader debate, Pro's Ben Lefebvre [reports](#). "It's really not gotten the attention that it should," Sen. [Tammy Duckworth](#) said of [legislation](#) that easily cleared the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "It's not just the budget discussion. It's about everything else that's going on, the flurry of all sorts of other news."

- **Democrats don't have the votes to stop ANWR drilling** since it's hitching a ride on the tax bill moving under budget reconciliation rules. The Budget Committee cleared its filibuster-proof package Tuesday, and there were several other signs of momentum for the GOP tax overhaul effort, POLITICO's Seung Min Kim, Bernie Becker and Colin Wilhelm [report](#). Sen. [Susan Collins](#), a key swing vote who's opposed ANWR drilling in the past, said she'd "certainly try" to remove drilling language from the package but that doing so would not be a prerequisite for her support of the overall bill.

- **Senate Energy Chairman [Lisa Murkowski's ANWR push](#)** directs Interior to hold two lease sales over the next decade and CBO said it would raise \$1 billion over that period, meeting budgetary instructions. But critics argue the Republican tax package would actually harm energy-producing states. That's because it would trigger required "pay-as-you-go" cuts to mandatory spending programs, such as an energy royalty revenue sharing program carried out through the Mineral Leasing Act that would cost Murkowski's Alaska [an estimated \\$15 million](#) in energy royalty payments next year alone. "This is yet another example of the consequences associated with forcing through legislation to add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit in order to give tax cuts to the wealthy," House Minority Whip [Steny Hoyer](#) said in a statement.

## **OF INTEREST**

ICYMI: WSJ article on elephants

*By Terry L. Anderson and Hannah Downey*

Nov. 28, 2017 6:36 p.m. ET

The debate about hunting lions and elephants has just come roaring back. Earlier this month the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lifted a ban on importing lion and elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Just days later, after an outcry, President Trump reinstated it. "Put big game trophy decision on hold," Mr. Trump tweeted, "until such time as I review all conservation facts."

Although African lions and elephants are listed under the Endangered Species Act,

Americans can import trophies from certain countries as long as the Fish and Wildlife Service determines that hunting will enhance the survival of the species in the wild. After several years of study, the agency determined that hunting these species in Zimbabwe and Zambia would benefit wildlife conservation.

Environmental activists aren't reassured, and some pledged to sue. "The Trump administration must clearly and permanently halt imports of lion and elephant trophies to protect these amazing animals from extinction," said Tanya Sanerib, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. Mr. Trump expressed similar concerns. "Will be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal," he tweeted.

The fear is that allowing trophy imports will lead to more killing of animals. To some extent, that's true. But encouraging more legal hunting could actually be a good thing for endangered wildlife.

Many opponents conflate trophy hunting with poaching. Pictures featuring dozens of elephants with their tusks, ears and feet dismembered may seem to represent the effects of all elephant hunting. In reality, such gruesome scenes are created by poachers who illegally kill elephants, usually to trade their parts in Asia, where demand for ivory is high. Where poaching occurs, it is often in conjunction with corruption in the wildlife-regulation system.

Poachers are often local Africans who lose crops, livestock and family members to marauding elephant herds. To them, wildlife is a liability to be avoided or killed rather than an asset to be protected. Poaching, not legal hunting, is what caused Africa's elephant populations to drop by 30% between 2007 and 2014.

Some argue that allowing hunters to import trophies will make it easier for poachers to market illegally killed animals. But bringing a trophy into the U.S. requires federal permits, and getting those from the Fish and Wildlife Service takes mounds of paperwork and months of careful processing.

In Zimbabwe, officials track and register all authorized hunts, identify the nationalities of the participants, and monitor the value and number of elephants harvested relative to the sustainable quota. With proper monitoring, poachers can be caught and wanton killing stopped.

When hunting is prohibited, wildlife bears the cost. Before Kenya banned hunting in 1977, it was home to 167,000 elephants. By 2013 the number had fallen to 27,000, all in protected areas such as national parks. That's because poaching the animals for bushmeat was rampant. [A 2012 study](#) found that eliminating hunting revenues can be bad for lion conservation because it can "reduce tolerance for the species among communities where local people benefit from trophy hunting, and may reduce funds available for anti-poaching."

When conducted responsibly, trophy hunting is both sustainable and profitable. Hunters pay not only for licenses but professional guides and their staffs. Money flows even to local councils that distribute proceeds to villagers. That turns wildlife from a liability into an asset.

Two decades ago, the village of Sankuyo, Botswana, signed on to a community-

based natural-resource program that emphasized hunting. In 2010 the community earned nearly \$600,000 from the animals, including 22 elephants, hunted that year. The funds went to local projects, including to improve water and toilet access. Wildlife populations also increased. "When hunting was introduced," a wildlife-management expert named Brian Child told the New York Times in 2015, "we actually ended up killing less animals."

Sankuyo demonstrates that if hunting is to benefit wildlife, it must first benefit people. If political structures or corruption prevents local communities from benefiting from the presence of wildlife, there will be no motivation to fight poachers or find alternative resolutions to human-animal conflicts.

In 2014, however, Botswana banned trophy hunting. "Before, when there was hunting, we wanted to protect those animals because we knew we earned something out of them," one villager told the Times. "Now, we don't benefit at all from the animals. The elephants and buffaloes leave after destroying our plowing fields during the day. Then, at night, the lions come into our kraals." Without legal hunting to give wildlife value, poaching and human-animal conflicts have increased, and dozens of people have been left jobless.

Though it is perhaps an uncomfortable reality, responsible hunting can promote wildlife conservation. It makes wildlife an asset to local communities, which secures the survival of at-risk species. If the Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that's the case in Zimbabwe and Zambia, a distaste for hunting shouldn't be enough to stand in the way.

*Mr. Anderson is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Mont. Ms. Downey is a research fellow at PERC.*

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#### **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Sent to the Federal Register on November 27th.

REG0007639 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Possible Effects of Court Decision on Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Conterminous United States -- FWS is seeking public comment on a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, that may impact our June 30, 2017, final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007640 FWS Draft Supplement to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan: Habitat-Based Recovery Criteria for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem -- The draft supplement, which will be appended to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan upon finalization, proposes to establish habitat based recovery criteria for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE), which occurs in Montana. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007647 FWS Final Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision -- The purpose of the notice is to notify local, State, and Federal agencies; Tribes; and the public, in

both the United States and Mexico of the final revised recovery plan. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007658 FWS Notice of Availability: Applications to Participate in American Burying-Beetle Amended Industry Conservation Plan (XTO Energy, Inc. and Tall Oak Woodford, LLC) -- The two applicants are XTO Energy, Inc. and Tall Oak Woodford, LLC. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007662 FWS Availability of a Proposed Amendment to a Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Florida Scrub-Jay, Manatee and Hardee Counties, FL -- Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC, has applied for an amendment to their existing incidental take permit. The revised HCP addresses the anticipated take of the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake incidental to land clearing and phosphate mining. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007532 OSM Wyoming Regulatory Program (WY-045-FOR) -- The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is issuing a final decision on an amendment to the Wyoming regulatory program under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The decision approves in part and disapproves in part the amendment. Final Rule 11/28/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison  
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**To:** John Tanner[John\_tanner@ios.doi.gov]; Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Natalie Davis[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Mashburn, Lori  
**Sent:** 2017-11-20T13:25:34-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/20  
**Received:** 2017-11-20T13:26:23-05:00  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-20-17.docx](#)

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/20/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

### **STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

THIS WEEK: The Secretary is in DC and personal leave to CA.

- 11/20 Call with Congressman Christ Stewart
  - o Cabinet Meeting at White House
- 11/21 U.S Marine Corps War Memorial Event at Iwo Jima Memorial
  - o Meeting with OMB Director Mulvaney
- 11/22-27 Personal Leave

### **STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC conducting internal meetings.

**WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Friday, 11/17)

### **Press Inquiries:**

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **\*Multiple Inquiries on the Elephant decision\*** All inquiries are being sent to USFWS.
- **E&E News:** (Jennifer Yachnin)—**REQUEST--** Is Brian Steed actually the acting director at BLM or per the Vacancies Act (since he wouldn't qualify under the 90-day rule) does he have another title?—**RESPONSE--** Technically, he is

acting with the full delegated functions, duties, responsibilities, and authority of the BLM Director, but does not have the title of “Acting BLM Director.”

- **Vox:** (Umair Irfan)—**REQUEST--** I wanted to see how many positions Interior currently has that will be affected by the Vacancy Act and what will happen to those offices now that the deadline has expired, particularly with respect to ongoing rulemaking and lease evaluations.--**RESPONSE—** We are aware of the deadline and we have taken sufficient administrative actions to ensure that the functions, duties, and responsibilities of the positions are performed.

### **Top Stories**

- **CNN:** [Poor record-keeping hindering Zinke travel investigation, IG says](#)
- **Yahoo Finance:** [Zinke Failed to Document for Use of Private Jets, Watchdog Says](#)
- **Baltimore Sun:** [Stop the assault on U.S. national monuments](#)
- **NBC News:** [Zimbabwe can't manage its elephant population while in political upheaval, experts say](#)
- **Washington Post:** [The Trump administration says we have to kill elephants to help save them. The data says otherwise.](#)

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, Interior announced the Senate confirmation of Brenda Burman as the Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).
- Today, Interior made a major announcement on the approval of a Transmission Line Project in Oregon and Idaho. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).
- November 17-19, the Deputy Secretary is expected to travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and the USVI to review hurricane recovery efforts at DOI lands, including National Parks. We expect some Parks will be partially open on Monday. We don't have pro-active press planned on the ground during the trip but expect to issue a release early next week on the progress. We have coordinated the trip with FEMA.

### **AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD November 15 thru November 23, 2017 (submitted 11/16)**

## Announcements/Releases/Events

### U.S. Department of the Interior

#### *Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews*

- **November 20 (tent.): Local NPS Release:** After the Deputy Secretary's trip, NPS will announce plans to re-establish operations at Virgin Islands National Park.

**November TBD:** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.

- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **November/December TBD:** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Pending WH review.

### Interior Social Media Updates

- **November TBD: Department-level blog post:** USA Today photo gallery: Interior digital is working with USA Today on a photo gallery of public lands near urban areas that are perfect to explore over the holidays.

### National Park Service

- **November 21: National NPS Release:** NPS will unveil the Iraq and Afghanistan engravings on the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima).
- **November TBD:** Blue Ridge Parkway anticipates completing environmental compliance and signing required right-of-way and construction permits for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The NPS is working closely with the applicant, Dominion, to finalizing the permits. Approval by the NPS is one of several steps necessary for the larger projects to move forward. This pipeline would traverse the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with final decisions by a number of other state and federal agencies, anticipated later in 2017.
- **November TBD: Local NPS Release:** NPS NCR will issue news release on upcoming deer management and reduction at three western Maryland parks. All three parks did the same last year with minimal controversy.
- **November TBD: Local NPS Release:** Glacier National Park is preparing an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact to begin flood mitigation measures following the Sprague Fire.

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **November TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a release on the opening of the public comment for both the Candidate Conservation Agreements

with Assurances (CCAA) policy and the corresponding regulations. These notices will solicit public comments on the 2016 revised policy and regulations to determine if there are additional revisions, particularly to the CCAA standard, that will make the policy and regulations easier to implement for those entities choosing to participate in a CCAA.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **November 20 - December 12:** BLM-AK will host public scoping meetings for the Ambler Road Environmental Impact Statement in Anchorage (Nov. 20); Kobuk (Dec. 4); Ambler (Dec. 5); Kotzebue (Dec. 6); Shungnak (Dec. 7); and Evansville/Bettles (Dec. 12). The proposed road, which would be available for industrial use only, would further mineral exploration in the area and facilitate the development of hardrock mines. The public scoping period will end on Jan. 31, 2018.
- **November 20:** BLM-NM Taos Field Manager Sarah Schlanger will attend the New Mexico State Legislature's Interim Land Grant Committee meeting to answer questions regarding a land grant's possible Recreation and Public Purposes Act application for an historic cemetery.
- **November 21:** BLM-NM Acting Associate State Director Lance Porter will participate in a meeting to discuss the 2018 Mexican Wolf Release and Translocation Plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- **November TBD: Local USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **November TBD: National Reclamation Release:** Reclamation will release two funding opportunity announcements under the Drought Response Program for drought resiliency projects and drought contingency



planning. The Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought. It will provide assistance to water users for drought contingency planning and to take actions that will build long-term resiliency to drought.

#### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:**

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar for the New York Bight being hosted on December 4, 2017.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting for Virginia and North Carolina being held on December 7, 2017.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

#### **Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- **November 21:** BIE Director, Tony Dearman speaker at the University of Central Oklahoma's Native American Heritage Month celebration will address "Lessons in Leadership" to the Native American Faculty and Staff Association.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

**PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT:** Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did nothing on this issue for the last eight years. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.

**Timing:** TBD

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

#### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
  - Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
  - Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
  - Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
  - Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
  - Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- Overall:
- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
  - NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
  - PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

#### Accepted:

11/21 US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima  
12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)  
2/9 Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)  
3/6-7 CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

#### Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)  
1/4 Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)  
1/26-28 Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)  
1/29 Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)  
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)  
2/12 The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

#### Declining

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)  
12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)  
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)  
12/5 NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)  
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)  
12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)  
12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)  
12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)  
12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)  
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)  
2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

No update.

### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)

#### **Trump Says Decision On Elephant Hunting Trophies To Come This Week.**

Politico (11/19, Griffiths) reports President Trump tweeted Sunday a final decision would come this week on whether to maintain a ban on importing elephant hunting trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia, "indicating he was leaning toward keeping the Obama-era rules in place." Trump wrote, "Big-game trophy decision will be announced next week but will be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal." The Washington Post (11/19, Gearan) says it was "not immediately clear whether the reference to 'any other animal' might mean he is also reconsidering his administration's separate lifting of import bans on lion trophies last month."

#### **Interior Secretary Visits Mille Lacs, Discusses Law Enforcement Crisis.**

The Brainerd (MN) Daily Dispatch (11/18) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke arrived on the Mille Lacs Reservation "for an impromptu visit" Thursday and Friday "to discuss the current law enforcement crisis." Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin "described the meeting as very positive," saying, "Secretary Zinke wanted to hear from us about this issue and listened intently, and promised to do what he can to help." Following the meeting, Zinke and his staff "joined about 800 Mille Lacs Band members for the annual Community Feast."

#### **Congress Pushes Back On Interior Plan That Would More Than Double National Park Fees.**

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/17, Burr) reports that Congress is "pushing back on an Interior Department proposal to more than double entrance fees at some national parks during peak times and could look at legislation to halt any increases." Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, "says he will hold hearings on the park-fee proposal and look at legislation to prohibit an agency from raising fees without consulting Congress." Bishop said, "It is very difficult to allow an

agency to raise money by itself. That's troublesome to me. Raising fees should have congressional input." Rep. Mia Love is "also pushing back, arguing that the fee increases would hurt Utah families and the Interior Department should be looking to charge international tourists more money than Americans who own the system." Love "noted the opposition isn't partisan...and although Love supports most of Zinke's efforts at the Interior Department, she said, 'I've got to fight him on this.'"

### **Susan Combs Hits A New Hurdle In Her Path To Washington Post.**

The Austin (TX) American Statesman (11/17, Recio) reports that "former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs has hit yet another roadblock on the way to a U.S. Senate vote for a top position at the Interior Department." Sen. Dick Durbin has "put a 'hold' on Combs and another Interior Department nominee blocking them from getting a Senate vote until he gets 'clarification' of the agency's plans to re-designate environmentally sensitive public lands known as national monuments."

· **MAIL CALL! AIDING ZINKE'S CAUSE:** Echoing Zinke's own calls from a couple weeks ago, 16 Senate Republicans released a letter Friday asking Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to prioritize four Interior nominees for confirmation. The chamber confirmed one of the four Brenda Burman on Thursday, but the senators still want action on the nominations of Susan Combs to be Interior's assistant secretary of policy management and budget, Joseph Balash to be assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management and Ryan Nelson to be agency solicitor. "As you proceed in scheduling the next nominations to bring to the floor, we urge you to make these well-qualified nominees a top priority," the letter, led by Steve Daines, says.

### **House Committee Backs Westward Move For Interior Employees.**

Federal News Radio (DC) (11/17, Wing) reports that Republican leaders on the House Natural Resources Committee have written to President Trump "in support of an Interior Department re-organization." Committee Chairman Rob Bishop and "six of his colleagues from Western states urged the White House to strongly consider moving some Interior offices out of Washington and closer to the people they serve."

### **Nebraska approves Keystone XL pipeline**

Nebraska regulators approved the Keystone XL pipeline, removing the last big regulatory hurdle for the oil project after years of bitter protests from environmentalists and landowners, and giving President Donald Trump a victory in his campaign for U.S. "energy dominance."

The Nebraska Public Service Commission voted 3-2 to approve the route through the state for the pipeline that will transport up to 830,000 barrels per day of crude from Canada and North Dakota to oil refineries on the Gulf Coast. Former President Barack Obama had blocked the permits for the pipeline in 2015, citing the oil sands' impact on climate change, but Trump quickly reversed that decision after taking office.

Today's approval comes just days after the original Keystone Pipeline ruptured and dumped 210,000 gallons of oil into a rural area of South Dakota. But Nebraska law barred regulators from considering spills or pipeline safety in its decision-making process.

### **BLM Advisory Councils Are Free To Meet Again After Initial Review.**

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (11/19, Webb) reports that "after a suspension for an Interior Department review, Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) to the Bureau of Land Management and other similar advisory groups 'are free to meet according to normal procedures.'" That's following "completion of the initial phase of the review process, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email Friday."

### **Mark Sanford Opposes Energy Bill Championed By GOP Leaders.**

The Miami Herald (11/17, Dumain) reports that Rep. Mark Sanford (R-S.C.) said he opposes aspects of a proposed House bill aimed at expanding domestic energy production because it would promote offshore drilling. Rep. Sanford "plans to form a coalition of Republicans and Democrats to formally ask for changes to the bill." The bill includes a controversial provision to partially rollback the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act, which has been "endorsed by powerful industry lobbyists such as the American Petroleum Institute." Opponents to the rollback say the Marine Mammal Protection Act "is effectively the last remaining law in place preventing indiscriminate drilling and testing for oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean."

### **Proposal Restricting National Mall Access A 'Game Changer' For Hill Athletes.**

Roll Call (11/17, Connolly) reports the National Park Service "held meetings last week with leagues from across the city including the House softball league informing them that it planned to permanently close access" on the National Mall, "from Third Street to 17th Street, to 'organized sports.'" Also, "the park service plans to raise permit fees from as little as \$7 for an entire season to \$70 per two-hour period on the Mall fields west of the Washington Monument." Those meetings were "preliminary, informal efforts to give those stakeholders background information about the possible changes, including modifications to the reservation system/process and fees, as well as locations available for use by organized sports," park service spokesman Mike Litterst said in a statement Wednesday.

### **Beach Boys, Wynonna To Play National Christmas Tree Lighting.**

WRC-TV Washington (11/17, Vesoulis) reports that "the Beach Boys, Wynonna and The Texas Tenors will play the White House's National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, National Park Service officials said." The tree will "arrive in Washington Monday, and it will be illuminated Nov. 30 on the Ellipse at President's Park, also known as the White House."

### **West Virginia Retraining Program Provides Unemployed Coal Miners With Computer Skills.**

The CBS Weekend News (11/18, story 9, 2:05, Ninan) reported on a West Virginia retraining program for unemployed coal miners, an industry that has seen its workforce shrink by over 40 percent in recent years. Correspondent Weijia Jiang says the "free training program called 'Mined Minds' that teaches former coal miners to become computer coders, creating apps, websites, and games. Founder Amanda Laucher started the nonprofit in Pennsylvania in 2015 because her younger brother was worried about losing his coal mining job." West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin (D) "helped Mined Minds establish headquarters near West Virginia's capital with federal grants." Manchin said the program "gives us a chance to diversify ourselves and be something that people think we're not."

**LOLA ZINKE ROLE SCRUTINIZED:** New documents show Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's wife, Lola, used Interior staff time to coordinate some of her activities while traveling with her husband during jaunts that gave her access to high level politicians and GOP donors who could benefit her as a political operator in her own right, Pro's Ben Lefebvre reports. "These emails show that the leadership at the Department of Interior treats basic ethical standards like an inconvenience," Western Values Project Executive Director Chris Saeger said. **In one instance**, records show the secretary's wife helped decide the guest list for a Young America's Foundation town hall forum with her husband on April 17 at its Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara. She sent a "list of people I have invited to the event" to two Interior staffers, according to a series of April 7 emails. Interior says she pays her own way when she accompanies her husband and that travel is cleared by ethics officials in advance. "DOI incurred no expenses due to Mrs. Zinke's presence" with the secretary, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email Friday.

## **DOI PRESS RELEASES**

### **Statement from Secretary Ryan Zinke on the Importing of Elephant Trophies**

Date: November 17, 2017

**WASHINGTON** U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued the following statement on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recent decision to allow the import of elephant hunting trophies from two African nations.

"President Trump and I have talked and both believe that conservation and healthy herds are critical. As a result, in a manner compliant with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, the issuing of permits is being put on hold as the decision is being reviewed."

### **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Sent to the Federal Register on November 17th.

REG0007635 BLM Notice of Public Meeting: Farmington District Resource Advisory Council Meeting -- Meeting date: December 5-6, 2017 Notice 11/17/2017

REG0007636 BLM Notice of Public Meeting: Las Cruces District Resource Advisory Council -- Meeting date: December 5-6, 2017 Notice 11/17/2017

REG0007638 BOE Outer Continental Shelf, Alaska Region, Beaufort Sea Planning Area, Liberty Development and Production Plan, Draft EIS, Re-opening of Public Comment Period -- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is extending for three weeks the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) relating to the Liberty Development and Production Plan (DPP) in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area. This Notice re-opens the comment period and extends it from November 18 through December 8, 2017. Notice 11/17/2017

REG0007620 FWS Notice of Public Meetings: North American Wetlands Conservation Council and Advisory Group for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act -- Meetings will be held in Washington, DC. December 12, 2017 - Advisory Group for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act December 13, 2017 - North American Wetlands Conservation Council Notice 11/17/2017

REG0007623 FWS Incidental Take Permit Application; Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher and Associated Documents; Brea, CA -- FWS has received an application from Orange County Waste & Recycling for a 5-year incidental take permit for the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. Notice 11/17/2017

REG0007632 FWS Change in Regional Partners for Upper Copper River Region for the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council -- FWS is announcing a change in a regional partner on the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council: the Copper River Native Association has elected to step down, and the Co-management Council is replacing that partner with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. Notice 11/17/2017

REG0007643 OS Notice of Public Meeting: Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) -- Notice announcing a public meeting of the ISAC via teleconference, scheduled for Wednesday, December, 6, 2017. Conference call information will be provided on the NISC website, [www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov) Notice 11/17/2017

REG0007591 USGS Notice of Public Meeting: National Geospatial Advisory Committee -- The National Geospatial Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet via public webinar on December 11, 2017. Notice 11/17/2017

REG0007625 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new information collection pertaining to the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework in States bordering the Great Lakes. The USGS is requesting public comments on the proposed information collection for 60 days. Notice 11/17/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison  
Department of the Interior  
202.208.1694





**To:** Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Natalie Davis[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]

**From:** Mashburn, Lori

**Sent:** 2017-11-17T13:23:11-05:00

**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/17

**Received:** 2017-11-17T13:23:56-05:00

[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-17-17.docx](#)

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/17/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

### **STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

THIS WEEK: The Secretary is in DC and Minnesota.

- 11/17 MN Meet and greet with Tribal Law Enforcement
  - o Tour with Tribal Law Enforcement
  - o Meeting with County Law Enforcement

NEXT WEEK: DC and personal leave

- 11/20 Cabinet Meeting at White House
- 11/21 U.S Marine Corps War Memorial Event
  - o Meeting with OMB Director Mulvaney
- 11/22-24 Personal Leave

### **STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: Travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

### **OF NOTE:**

**"Finally!" Secretary Zinke welcomes confirmation of Reclamation Nominee**

**WASHINGTON** Yesterday, the U.S. Senate confirmed Brenda Burman as the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner.

"Finally! After more than 142 days, I'm excited to welcome Brenda Burman to lead the

Bureau of Reclamation," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "After senseless and unprecedented hold-ups in the Senate, we can finally move forward with key water projects across the country."

"I am deeply honored for the opportunity to lead this organization," **said Brenda Burman**. "The employees of Reclamation are dedicated to working through the most difficult water issues and managing water in the West. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and the Administration to solve our most pressing water issues."

The Bureau of Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency and the largest wholesale provider of water in the country. It delivers water to more than 31 million people and provides one out of five western farmers with irrigation water for farmland that produces much of the nation's produce. Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States.

Brenda Burman is the first-ever female to lead the Bureau. From 2006 to 2008, she served as Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Deputy Assistant Secretary. Burman comes to Interior after working as the Director of Water Policy for Arizona's Salt River Project. Prior to that, she worked for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, The Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Kenyon College.

Six nominees still await confirmation, including Joe Balash for Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Susan Combs for Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management, & Budget, Ryan Nelson for Solicitor, newly nominated Tim Petty for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Tara Sweeney for Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Steven Gardner for Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Many Trump Administration nominations are awaiting Senate confirmation, and these nominees have been forced to wait significantly longer than either the Obama or Bush Administration's first-term nominees. Secretary Zinke recently wrote a letter to both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer urging them to expedite the confirmations of DOI nominees.

#### **· Arizona Confirmed As First Woman To Lead U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation.**

The [Arizona Republic](#) (11/16, Baietto) reports that Brenda Burman has been confirmed as the new commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. She is the first female to lead the agency. Burman, "who was nominated for the post in June by President Donald Trump, was confirmed on a unanimous voice vote by the U.S. Senate on Thursday, according to the Senate record."

#### **WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Thursday, 11/16)

##### **Press Inquiries:**

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.

- **Multiple Inquiries:** (The Hill, Politico, WaPo, E&E, ABC)—**REQUEST--** I'm seeking comment on the memo from the Inspector General about travel receipts from the secretary's office.—**RESPONSE—**Reporters are being sent a letter from Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt. **The letter is attached in this email.**

- **Newsweek:** (Sydney Pereira)—**REQUEST--** I'm a reporter for Newsweek and I'm writing a story this morning about the recent confirmation that the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments will be greatly reduced. I have a few questions and my deadline is 10:30 am. Thank you for understanding the quick turnaround! -When will President Donald Trump make these distinctions official? -What does Secretary Zinke expect to do with the lands once they are no longer national monuments? -What natural resources are at these two specific Utah monuments that the federal government is considering using to increase energy independence? (As President Trump described in the executive order from April, national monument boundaries often hinder energy independence)—**RESPONSE—**At this time, the Department has nothing new to announce on the monument review. I refer you to the more than a dozen press releases that have been issued in the past seven months on the subject. All of them can be found at doi.gov.

- **Politico:** (Esther Whieldon)—**REQUEST--** Can you please confirm the contents of this email - that Zinke has appointed Steed as acting BLM director? What day did Zinke make the appointment and why did he decided to do this? Also, please address how the agency is dealing with the limitations of any BLM acting director's authority now that the vacancies act has kicked in and Trump has not nominated anyone for BLM director yet.—**RESPONSE--** Brian has been an incredible asset to the Bureau since his first day. We are excited to have him temporarily step into this leadership role. We couldn't be more thankful to Mike Nedd for leading the Bureau during the initial transition. Nedd helped execute big wins for sportsmen's access, multiple-use, and energy development on BLM lands over the past few months.

- **Washington Post:** (Juliet Eilperin)—**REQUEST--** Darryl and I are still working on our hunting trophy piece, and we just want to confirm a couple of things. Is it accurate to say that the U.S. wildlife trafficking task force, which is led by DOI along with DOJ and State, has not met since inauguration, and that Interior's Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking and the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council remain suspended?—**RESPONSE—**TBD.

### **Top Stories**

- **Washington Post:** Watchdog says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke failed to properly document travel

- **THE HILL:** Interior watchdog says Zinke did not properly document his travel

- **Washington Examiner:** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke gave incomplete travel documentation, inspector general says
- **E&E News:** Zinke picks former Hill aide as acting BLM director
- **CNN:** US to allow imports of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe, Zambia

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, Secretary Zinke is traveling to Minnesota to visit the Mille Kacs Indian Reservation. The Secretary will meet with tribal leaders and observe issues facing the tribe, including opioid addiction and meth addiction.
- Today, Secretary Zinke met with Governor Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands. A readout of the meeting will be available shortly on [doi.gov](http://doi.gov).
- November 17-19, the Deputy Secretary is expected to travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and the USVI to review hurricane recovery efforts at DOI lands, including National Parks. We expect some Parks will be partially open on Monday. We don't have pro-active press planned on the ground during the trip but expect to issue a release early next week on the progress. We have coordinated the trip with FEMA.

### **AGENCY MEDIA**

#### **WEEK AHEAD November 15 thru November 23, 2017 (submitted 11/16)**

Announcements/Releases/Events

#### **U.S. Department of the Interior**

*Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews*

- **November 17:** The Secretary will attend the Bible Museum Dedication Ceremony. No pro-active press planned.
- **November 17-19:** the Deputy Secretary is expected to travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and the USVI to review hurricane recovery efforts at DOI lands, including National Parks. We expect some will be partially open on Monday. We don't have pro-active press planned on the ground.
- **November 17 (tent.): Department-level Release:** DOI and BLM will announce the signing of a Record of Decision for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. The project will provide additional electrical capacity between the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain West regions.

**November 20 (tent.): Local NPS Release:** After the Deputy Secretary's trip, NPS will

announce plans to re-establish operations at Virgin Islands National Park.

**November TBD:** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.

- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **November/December TBD:** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Pending WH review.

### **Interior Social Media Updates**

- **November TBD: Department-level blog post:** USA Today photo gallery: Interior digital is working with USA Today on a photo gallery of public lands near urban areas that are perfect to explore over the holidays.

### **National Park Service**

- **November 17: Local NPS Release:** Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument will begin soliciting public comments related to a proposed amendment to the park's general management plan. The park proposes to enhance visitor access, visitor services, and resource protection by replacing the existing visitor center with a new visitor center and by returning at minimum priority museum objects, if not all museum collections, to the park through the provision of an appropriate curatorial space.
- **November 21: National NPS Release:** NPS will unveil the Iraq and Afghanistan engravings on the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima).
- **November TBD:** Blue Ridge Parkway anticipates completing environmental compliance and signing required right-of-way and construction permits for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The NPS is working closely with the applicant, Dominion, to finalizing the permits. Approval by the NPS is one of several steps necessary for the larger projects to move forward. This pipeline would traverse the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with final decisions by a number of other state and federal agencies, anticipated later in 2017.
- **November TBD: Local NPS Release:** NPS NCR will issue news release on upcoming deer management and reduction at three western Maryland parks. All three parks did the same last year with minimal controversy.
- **November TBD: Local NPS Release:** Glacier National Park is preparing an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact to begin flood mitigation measures following the Sprague Fire.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **November 17 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the solicitation of input from the scientific community and the broader public on draft criteria set

for the eventual recovery of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear. The NCDE region encompasses Glacier National Park and other parts of northwestern Montana.

- **November 17 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

- **November TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a release on the opening of the public comment for both the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) policy and the corresponding regulations. These notices will solicit public comments on the 2016 revised policy and regulations to determine if there are additional revisions, particularly to the CCAA standard, that will make the policy and regulations easier to implement for those entities choosing to participate in a CCAA.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **November 20 - December 12:** BLM-AK will host public scoping meetings for the Ambler Road Environmental Impact Statement in Anchorage (Nov. 20); Kobuk (Dec. 4); Ambler (Dec. 5); Kotzebue (Dec. 6); Shungnak (Dec. 7); and Evansville/Bettles (Dec. 12). The proposed road, which would be available for industrial use only, would further mineral exploration in the area and facilitate the development of hardrock mines. The public scoping period will end on Jan. 31, 2018.

- **November 20:** BLM-NM Taos Field Manager Sarah Schlanger will attend the New Mexico State Legislature's Interim Land Grant Committee meeting to answer questions regarding a land grant's possible Recreation and Public Purposes Act application for an historic cemetery.

- **November 21:** BLM-NM Acting Associate State Director Lance Porter will participate in a meeting to discuss the 2018 Mexican Wolf Release and Translocation Plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.

- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- **November TBD: Local USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **November TBD: National Reclamation Release:** Reclamation will release two funding opportunity announcements under the Drought Response Program for drought resiliency projects and drought contingency planning. The Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought. It will provide assistance to water users for drought contingency planning and to take actions that will build long-term resiliency to drought.

#### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:**

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar for the New York Bight being hosted on December 4, 2017.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting for Virginia and North Carolina being held on December 7, 2017.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

#### **Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- **November 21:** BIE Director, Tony Dearman speaker at the University of Central Oklahoma's Native American Heritage Month celebration will address "Lessons in Leadership" to the Native American Faculty and Staff Association.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

**PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT:** Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did nothing on this issue for the last eight years. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.

**Timing:** TBD

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (updated)**

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

Accepted:

11/21 US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima  
12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)  
2/9 Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)  
3/6-7 CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 — DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)  
1/4 Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)  
1/26-28 Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)  
1/29 Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)  
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)  
2/12 The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)



Declining

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)  
12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)  
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)  
12/5 NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)  
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)  
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)  
12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)  
12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)  
12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)  
12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)  
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)  
2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Interagency Hurricane response and recovery efforts:**

In support of FEMA interagency response and recovery efforts, OEPC, USFWS, and NPS continue to coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) pertaining to the removal of ships on DOI lands in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

An interagency team of personnel from NPS, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Smithsonian are assisting the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and the General Archives with damage assessments of archival collections, providing technical expertise on salvaging damaged items, and assisting efforts to mitigate additional damage. OEPC is set to deploy a team later this month to assist the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of Puerto Rico with damage assessments of National Register Properties and those also available for the Register.

In Texas and Florida, OEPC remains activated under the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF) and have completed draft Mission Scope Assessments for both states. Additionally, NPS and FWS personnel are currently supporting the NCR RSF for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Internal bureau and office-specific Hurricane response and recovery activities:**

NPS announced on Monday, November 13, that two beaches within the Virgin Islands National Park were reopened after suffering significant impacts from recent hurricane activity. NPS personnel removed nearly 400 cubic yards of debris from the beaches in order to ensure safe visitor access.

**DOI Emergency Management Daily Feedback Request:**

The Office of Emergency Management is currently performing a short survey to identify areas to improve the attached DOI Emergency Management Daily Situation Report to meet customer requirements. The goal is to enhance the product to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in facilitating information sharing and collaboration throughout the Department, as well as with federal partners. Today is the final day the survey will be open. The survey can be found at the following link: [CLICK HERE](#).

**OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST** (new)**Keystone pipeline spills 210,000 gallons of oil in South Dakota**

The Keystone pipeline spilled 210,000 gallons of heavy Canadian oil in South Dakota, pipeline operator TransCanada said in a [statement](#) today. TransCanada shut down the pipeline around 7 a.m. ET after discovering the leak in Marshall County, the company said. Crews isolated the spill and called in emergency responders, the company said. TransCanada also alerted the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration of the spill. The spill comes less than a week before a local regulatory commission in Nebraska is scheduled to rule whether to approve the route through the state where TransCanada wants to build Keystone XL, an expansion of the original Keystone line. TransCanada said it has received enough interest from shippers to green-light Keystone XL project if it gets the go-ahead from the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

· **Environmentalists seized on the incident:** "These pipelines are bound to spill, and they put communities, precious drinking water, and our climate at risk," Greenpeace's Rachel Rye Butler said in a statement. "The Nebraska Public Service Commission needs to take a close look at this spill." And [350.org](#) Executive Director May Boeve said: "This is exactly the kind of disaster we can expect more of if Keystone XL is approved."

**US Reverses Ban On Elephant Trophies From Zimbabwe, Zambia.**

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 9, 0:20, Mason) reported the Fish and Wildlife Service is reversing an "Obama-era ban on elephant trophies" that will allow hunters to bring "elephant remains" into the US from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Animal protection groups argue that killing elephants for sport "could threaten an already endangered species," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/16, story 9, 0:25, Holt) said the move "has left many animal lovers and animal rights groups outraged," although a Fish and Wildlife spokesman "says that legal hunting in and management programs actually help species survive by putting much needed revenue back into conservation." [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (11/16) reported on the ban reversal while noting that Donald Trump Jr. has gone to Africa "many times to hunt" elephants and "defends it."

· ***White House Says Elephant Trophy Decision Not Yet Finalized.*** [Reuters](#) (11/16, Malone) reports that the White House on Thursday "said it

had not yet finalized a decision to allow trophy hunters who kill elephants in two African countries to bring the endangered animals home as trophies, a move that had outraged U.S. conservation groups." The proposal, "disclosed this week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had triggered protests from conservation groups and a frenzy on social media." White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, "There hasn't been an announcement that's been finalized on this front. Until that's done I wouldn't consider anything final."

### **Watchdog slams Zinke for failing to document travel**

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke failed to properly document his travel, the agency's watchdog said Thursday, preventing it from determining whether he had violated government rules. Zinke has come under scrutiny for mixing taxpayer-funded travel with political activities, as well as taking military or private planes rather than flying commercial, and the investigation by Interior's Office of Inspector General seeks to clarify whether all procedures were correctly followed. "Our investigation is delayed by absent or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include proper documentation and accountability," Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said in a letter obtained by POLITICO and first reported by The Washington Post. Zinke's travels have drawn scrutiny after Interior revealed he had taken non-commercial flights at taxpayer expense, POLITICO and other news outlets have reported. POLITICO has also reported that the former congressman from Montana has mixed taxpayer-paid trips with political work, such as when he participated in a fundraiser on behalf of the Virgin Islands GOP. The IG criticized Zinke for failing to complete documentation for his travel in the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, and said that the process established by Interior's Ethics Office and Office of the Solicitor "does not include sufficient documentation of the legal and ethical analysis conducted to distinguish between personal, political, and official travel, or consistent cost analysis to justify use of non-commercial travel." The IG asked for documentation of all of Zinke's travel, as well as for the documentation of travel by his wife, Lola Zinke, with documentation for how and when the travel was paid. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, the agency's second-ranking official, blamed the lack on documentation on the Obama administration for leaving behind "an organizational and operational mess." In his response letter, Bernhardt emphasized that Interior employees would continue to cooperate with the IG, and said he would provide documentation as requested. But he also went on to note that former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell hadn't completed her documentation for 12 trips taken last year and in January of this year, and he said some trips may have never been entered in the system. "When I arrived at the Department in August 2017 it was clear to me that the Secretary and I had inherited an organizational and operational mess," he wrote. "From my perspective, regarding IOS travel procedures, it appears that the exact same procedures and processes utilized by the previous Administration remain in place and continue to be dysfunctional." Zinke joins a cast of Trump administration officials, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and now-departed Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, who are accused of misuse of taxpayer funds

for travel.

**· Watchdog Says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Failed To Properly Document Travel.**

Interior Department Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall told department officials this week that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “has failed to keep complete records and in some cases kept none at all of his travel since taking office,” the Washington Post (11/16, Rein, Harwell) reports. In “a rare alert” to Zinke’s office, Kendall “said her investigation into allegations of improper travel practices by Zinke has been stymied by ‘absent or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips.’” In addition, Kendall wrote that lawyers and ethics officials have not shown investigators that they can “distinguish between personal, political and official travel” or cost-analyses to justify Zinke’s use of military or charter flights. The alert also says the IG is looking into “the travel of Zinke’s wife, Lola, who often accompanied him on official trips.” According to Kendall, the department’s documentation was so deficient that investigators were unable to determine “the full extent” of her travel and how it was paid for.

The AP (11/16, Daly) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt “said in a memo Thursday that travel procedures followed by previous Interior secretaries were “dysfunctional,” adding that most of those policies and procedures remain in effect, 10 months into the Trump administration.” Bernhardt “promised to turn over documents for all travel by the secretary in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, including at least 10 travel vouchers related to trips taken by former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.” He added that “the department also will provide information related to trips where Zinke’s wife or Jewell’s husband traveled in government-owned vehicles, watercraft or aircraft, and document whether payments were made or if reimbursements were required.”

Also reporting are The Hill (11/16, Henry), Bloomberg News (11/16, Natter), Reuters (11/16, Gardner), Politico (11/16, Wolff), the New York Daily News (11/16, Sommerfeldt), My Central Oregon (11/16), ABC News (11/16, Ebbs), the Huffington Post (11/16, D'Angelo), and The Week(11/16, Lange).

**US Lands Open For Biz.**

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (11/16, Hamilton) reports that “more than 250 people applauded” Kate MacGregor, acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management, “who came to Grand Junction on Thursday night with news that the federal government is dedicated to making federal lands welcome to energy development.” MacGregor “outlined President Donald Trump’s and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s plans to remove roadblocks to mining and drilling.” MacGregor said, “This Department of the Interior supports energy and mineral production in all of its many forms but recognizes where those raw materials come from. that’s because one barrel of oil, one mcf of gas or one ton of coal produced here in this nation is better than one that we have to import. Under Secretary (Ryan) Zinke’s leadership we are committed to serving as agents of

change. We have been charged by this president to identify and eliminate the obstacles to development of these important resources.” Additional coverage was provided by KKCO-TV Grand Junction, CO (11/16, Prechtl).

### **Justice Department Won't Release National Monument Documents.**

The AP (11/16, Ridler) reports that “documents possibly outlining legal justifications for President Donald Trump to shrink national monuments don't have to be provided to an Idaho environmental law firm because they're protected communications, federal officials say.” The U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday “asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit from Advocates for the West seeking the information.” The Justice Department “released more than 60 pages in May,” but the agency “withheld 12 pages...contending they are protected by attorney-client privilege and intra-agency communication rules, making them exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests.”

### **Tribes Hoping Overhaul Of BIA Regs Will Catalyze Deals.**

Law360 (11/16, Westney) reports that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs' invitation for tribes to comment on the potential impact of updating the federal government's regulations for doing business on Native American lands elicited stories of economic development deals hampered by red tape and calls to stop state governments from imposing taxes in Indian Country.” The article “looks at why and how tribes and tribal organizations say the so-called Indian Trader regulations need to be changed.”

### **BLM Plans To Reseed Wildfire Affected Areas.**

The Nevada Appeal (11/16, Ranson) reports that the Bureau of Land Management gave “an overview to Churchill County Commissioners on Wednesday to reseed areas burned by several big fires in Churchill County during the summer.” Ken Collum, field manager for the Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District, “said the agency will rehabilitate the land through both drill and aerial seeding.” According to Collum, “drill seeding will occur on about 8,088 acres, and the aerial seeding over another 6,364 acres.”

### **In A U.S. First, Muir Woods To Require Reservations For All Cars.**

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/16, Rogers) reports that in an effort “to reduce traffic jams and overcrowding, Muir Woods National Monument will become the first national park unit in the United States to require reservations for all vehicles to enter the park year-round.” Park managers of “announced Thursday that starting Jan. 16 everybody who plans to bring a car to Muir Woods will need to book a reservation online or by phone.” Darren Brown, a transportation planner with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which manages Muir Woods, said, “Visitation has continued to increase. The problem is too many cars. It's extremely crowded and we can't handle as many cars that end up going there.”

### **MAIL CALL! ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO YOU: House Natural Resources**

Chairman Rob Bishop, as well as the committee's subcommittee chiefs, sent a letter to Trump voicing support for reorganizing Interior. "Any thoughtful DOI reorganization should give serious consideration to relocating select agencies away from Washington," they wrote. "Simply put, federal employees should know and live around the people, lands, and economies they regulate."

## **DOI PRESS RELEASES**

### **Readout of Meeting between U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Governor Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands**

**WASHINGTON** Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke met with Governor Kenneth Mapp of the United States Virgin Islands to discuss hurricane response and recovery.

"Recovering from natural disasters requires a team effort, and the Department of the Interior is absolutely committed to helping the Virgin Islands return to normal," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Our Insular Affairs team has been working around the clock to provide relief to those ravaged by hurricane, and we will continue these efforts in the weeks and months to come. It was great to meet with Governor Mapp today about the work we've done to date, as well as what is left to be done. The Trump Administration and the government of the Virgin Islands are in close collaboration with one another to coordinate recovery efforts."

The Secretary and Governor Mapp discussed many topics and concerns regarding Hurricane relief, such as the re-opening of Virgin Islands National Park on the Island of St. John. Governor Mapp outlined the robust recovery effort taking place, and gave first-hand accounts of how the Islands are clearing debris, restoring power, and opening schools.

"Our recovery efforts with our federal partners has truly been productive. We have made great strides since being hit by two category five hurricanes, and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands are benefiting from our partnership," **said Governor Mapp**. "We look forward to our continued working relationship with the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies as we we build a better, stronger, and more resilient United States Virgin Islands."

Secretary Zinke stressed the importance of a continued working relationship with the Governor of the Virgin Islands to bring the Islands back to full strength.

## **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Sent to the Federal Register on November 16th.

REG0007609 BLM Notice of Realty Action: Competitive Sale of 40 Parcels of Public Land in Clark County, NV -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to offer 40 parcels of public land totaling 754.78 acres in the Las Vegas Valley by competitive sale at not less than the appraised fair market values (FMV) pursuant to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA). The BLM

invites public comments on the proposed sale, which is scheduled to be held by sealed bid and oral public auction on January 24, 2018, over 45 days. Notice 11/16/2017

REG0007615 NPS Agency Information Collection Activities; National Heritage Areas Program -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the National Park Service (NPS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new information collection for the National Heritage Areas Program. The NPS is requesting public comments on the proposed information collection for 60 days. Notice 11/16/2017

REG0007626 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Did You Feel It? Earthquake Questionnaire -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information through the Did You Feel It? Earthquake Questionnaire. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/16/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison  
Department of the Interior  
202.208.1694

**To:** Andrea Travnicek[andrea\_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]; Domenech, Douglas[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine MacGregor[katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; John Tahsuda[john.tahsuda@bia.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Larrabee, Jason  
**Sent:** 2017-10-30T16:20:05-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** FWS/NPS major infrastructure list  
**Received:** 2017-10-30T16:20:20-04:00  
[2017 10 27 NPS Major Infrastructure Projects by others for review.docx](#)  
[FWS Consolidated Major Projects 2017-10-30.docx](#)

Per my conversation at the 3pm meeting, attached are the most current list of major infrastructure projects FWS and NPS are involved with.

Jason Larrabee  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 3154  
Washington, DC 20240  
office: 202-208-4416

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*



**To:** Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Amy Holley[Amy\_Holley@ios.doi.gov]; Andrea Travnicek[andrea\_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]; Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia\_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Cally Younger[cyounger@blm.gov]; Caminiti, Mariagrazia[Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov]; Catherine Gulac[Catherine\_Gulac@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Edward Keable[edward.keable@sol.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; John Tahsuda[john.tahsuda@bia.gov]; Juliette Lillie[juliette\_lillie@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine Macgregor[katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Kerry Rae[kerry\_rae@ios.doi.gov]; Kevin Haugrud[jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov]; Maureen Foster[maureen\_foster@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Michael Black[mike.black@bia.gov]; Nikolao Pula[Nikolao\_Pula@ios.doi.gov]; Richard Cardinale[Richard\_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Cameron[scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Timothy Williams[Timothy\_Williams@ios.doi.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent\_devito@ios.doi.gov]; Kathleen Benedetto[kbenedetto@blm.gov]

**From:** Rees, Gareth

**Sent:** 2017-09-21T17:47:07-04:00

**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** Weekly Report to the Secretary - September 21, 2017

**Received:** 2017-09-21T17:47:12-04:00

[Weekly Report to the Secretary 092117.docx](#)

Good Afternoon All,

Please find attached the weekly report to the Secretary. I have attached both the word and Google Doc versions of the reports. If there are any issues, please let me know.

Thanks

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202 208 6291

Fax: 202 208 1873

Cell: 202 957 8299

Weekly Report to the Secretary 09/21/17

**To:** Lori Mashburn[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2017-08-23T17:36:19-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: 24 hour hold: OS 2017-00761  
**Received:** 2017-08-23T17:37:33-04:00  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[17-00761ca.pdf](#)  
[17-00761ab.pdf](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

FYI all DOI political appointee's resumes are included in this FOIA response. Emails and home addresses have been redacted.

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Howarth, Robert" <[robert\\_howarth@ios.doi.gov](mailto:robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov)>  
**To:** Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: 24 hour hold: OS 2017-00761

Hi Laura...For your review and awareness.

Rob

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Julka, Clarice** <[clarice\\_julka@ios.doi.gov](mailto:clarice_julka@ios.doi.gov)>  
Date: Wed, Aug 23, 2017 at 9:39 AM  
Subject: 24 hour hold: OS 2017-00761  
To: Robert Howarth <[robert\\_howarth@ios.doi.gov](mailto:robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov)>

Draft letter and records attached.

Clarice Julka  
Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary, FOIA Office  
1849 C Street, NW, MS-7328  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
[Clarice\\_Julka@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Clarice_Julka@ios.doi.gov)  
(202) 513-0765 - phone

(202) 208-6045 - direct line  
(202) 219-2374 - fax

--

Robert Howarth  
Deputy Director for Correspondence and FOIA Management  
Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-3181  
202-208-4451 (direct)  
202-549-8961 (cell)

**To:** Amy Holley[Amy\_Holley@ios.doi.gov]; Caminiti, Mariagrazia[Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov]; Christine Bauserman[christine\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Edward Keable[edward.keable@sol.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Juliette Lillie[juliette\_lillie@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine Macgregor[katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Kerry Rae[kerry\_rae@ios.doi.gov]; Kevin Haugrud[jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov]; Maureen Foster[maureen\_foster@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Michael Black[mike.black@bia.gov]; Nikolao Pula[Nikolao\_Pula@ios.doi.gov]; Richard Cardinale[Richard\_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Cameron[scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Timothy Williams[Timothy\_Williams@ios.doi.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent\_devito@ios.doi.gov]; Virginia Johnson[virginia\_johnson@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Rees, Gareth  
**Sent:** 2017-07-06T15:53:48-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Weekly Report to the Secretary - July 6, 2017  
**Received:** 2017-07-06T15:53:57-04:00  
[WeeklyReporttotheSecretary07-06-17.docx](#)

Good Afternoon All,

Please find attached the weekly report to the Secretary. I have attached both the word and Google Doc versions of the reports. If there are any issues, please let me know.

Thanks

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

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Weekly Report to the Secretary 07-06-17

**To:** Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Amy Holley[Amy\_Holley@ios.doi.gov]; Andrea Travnicek[andrea\_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]; Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia\_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Benjamin Cassidy[benjamin\_cassidy@ios.doi.gov]; Cally Younger[cyounger@blm.gov]; Caminiti, Mariagrazia[Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov]; Casey Stemler[casey\_stemler@fws.gov]; Catherine Gulac[Catherine\_Gulac@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b) (6) @ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Edward Keable[edward.keable@sol.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; John Tahsuda[john.tahsuda@bia.gov]; Juliette Lillie[juliette\_lillie@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine Macgregor[katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Kathleen Benedetto[kbenedetto@blm.gov]; Kerry Rae[kerry\_rae@ios.doi.gov]; Kevin Haugrud[jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov]; Larrabee, Jason[jason\_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Maureen Foster[maureen\_foster@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Michael Black[mike.black@bia.gov]; Nikolao Pula[Nikolao\_Pula@ios.doi.gov]; Richard Cardinale[Richard\_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Cameron[scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Timothy Williams[Timothy\_Williams@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Wynn[todd\_wynn@ios.doi.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent\_devito@ios.doi.gov]

**From:** Rees, Gareth

**Sent:** 2017-11-03T12:46:20-04:00

**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** Weekly Report to the Secretary - November 2, 2017

**Received:** 2017-11-03T12:46:28-04:00

[Weekly Report to the Secretary 11%2F02%2F17.docx](#)

Good Afternoon All,

Please find attached the weekly report to the Secretary. I have attached both the word and Google Doc versions of the reports. If there are any issues, please let me know.

Thanks

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202 208 6291

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Weekly Report to the Secretary 11/02/17

**To:** David Bernhardt[(b) (6)]@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Angelle[scott.angelle@bsee.gov]; Thomas Baptiste[thomas\_baptiste@ios.doi.gov]; Christine Bauserman[christine\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov]; Preston Beard[preston.beard@bsee.gov]; Benedetto, Kathleen[kathleen\_benedetto@ios.doi.gov]; Boulton, Caroline[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Cameron, Scott[scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Joshua Campbell[joshua\_campbell@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Chambers, Micah[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Marshall Critchfield[marshall\_critchfield@ios.doi.gov]; Gavin Clarkson[gavin.clarkson@bia.gov]; Davis, Natalie[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Landon Davis[landon\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent\_devito@ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Jason Funes[jason\_funes@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Casey Hammond[casey\_hammond@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Amanda Kaster[amanda\_kaster@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine Macgregor[katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Lori Mashburn[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; David Mihalic[david\_mihalic@ios.doi.gov]; Alan Mikkelsen[amikkelsen@usbr.gov]; Ryan Nichols[ryan\_nichols@ios.doi.gov]; Brian Pavlik[brian\_pavlik@nps.gov]; Brendan Quinn[brendan\_quinn@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Roddy[russell\_roddy@ios.doi.gov]; James Schindler[james.schindler@boem.gov]; Greg Sheehan[greg\_j\_sheehan@fws.gov]; Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia\_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Lacey Smethers[lacey\_smethers@ios.doi.gov]; Steven Smith[steven\_m\_smith@ios.doi.gov]; Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Wackowski, Stephen[stephen\_wackowski@ios.doi.gov]; Williams, Timothy[timothy\_williams@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]

**Cc:** Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Newell, Russell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]

**From:** Rigas, Laura

**Sent:** 2017-08-24T11:15:55-04:00

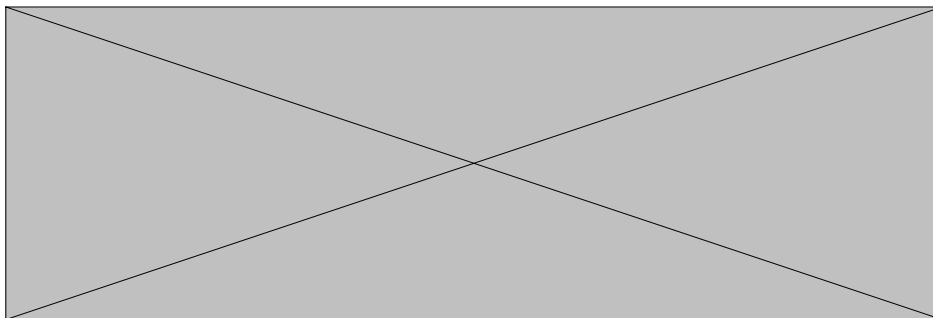
**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** EMBARGOED: Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House

**Received:** 2017-08-24T11:16:06-04:00

[TPs on the EO and background on Antiquities Act.docx](#)

Hi all -- here is an EMBARGOED copy of the release which will be issued at 1pm, plus attached talking points for internal purposes. There will be a link to the Executive Summary in the release but we have pasted it below. Thanks!



EMBARGOED UNTIL 1PM ET

Date: August 24, 2017  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House

**WASHINGTON** – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke sent a draft report to the president which included his findings and recommendations on national monuments that were under review as a result of the April 26, 2017 [executive order](#). The report summary can be read **\*\*here\*\***. The extensive 120-day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback (including a virtual tour of a marine monument), and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](#). Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, Tribal, and non-government stakeholders including multiple Tribal listening sessions.

The review was implemented by President Trump in order to restore trust in the multiple-use mission of the Department and to give rural communities a voice in federal land management decisions. In order to make the process transparent and give local residents and stakeholders a voice, the Secretary [announced](#) on May 5, 2017 the opening up of a formal comment period for the review, as the President directed. This was the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on [regulations.gov](#) for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

“No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The recommendations I sent to the president on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation.”

While traveling across the country, Secretary Zinke met with hundreds of local stakeholders and heard concerns about some national monuments negatively impacting things like local revenue from federal lands, agriculture, private property rights, public access to land, traditional Tribal uses of the land, and timber harvesting.

Over the 120-day review, Secretary Zinke visited eight national monument sites in six states:

- Bears Ears (UT)
- Grand Staircase Escalante (UT)
- Katahdin Woods and Waters (ME)
- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts
- Cascade Siskiyou (OR & CA)
- Organ Peaks (NM)
- Basin and Range (NV)
- Gold Butte (NV)

The following national monuments were announced to have been removed from review prior to the August 24 deadline:

- [Craters of the Moon](#)
- [Hanford Reach](#)

- Upper Missouri River Breaks
- Grand Canyon-Parashant
- Canyons of the Ancients
- Sand to Snow

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR RYAN ZINKE**

In 1906, Congress delegated to the President the power to designate a monument under the Antiquities Act (Act). The Act authorizes the President singular authority to designate national monuments without public comment, environmental review, or further consent of Congress. Given this extraordinary executive power, Congress wisely placed limits on the President by defining the objects that may be included within a monument as being “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest,” by restricting the authority to Federal lands, and by limiting the size of the monument to “the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects.” Congress retained its authority to make land use designations without such limitations. Even with the restrictive language, use of the Act has not always been without controversy. In fact, even Theodore Roosevelt's first proclamation of the roughly 1,200 acre Devil's Tower in Wyoming was controversial. Since that time, the use of the Act has largely been viewed as an overwhelming American success story and today includes almost 200 of America's greatest treasures.

More recently, however, the Act's executive authority is under scrutiny as administrations have expanded both the size and scope of monument designations. Since 1996 alone, the Act has been used by the President 26 times to create monuments that are over 100,000 acres or more in size and have included private property within the identified external boundaries. While early monument designations focused more on geological formations, archaeological ruins, and areas of historical interest, a more recent and broad interpretation of what constitutes an “object of historic or scientific interest” has been extended to include landscape areas, biodiversity, and view sheds. Moreover, features such as World War II desert bombing craters and remoteness have been included in justifying proclamations.

The responsibility of protecting America's public lands and unique antiquities should not be taken lightly; nor should the authority and the power granted to a President under the Act. No President should use the authority under the Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object. It is Congress and not the President that has the authority to make protective land designations outside of the narrow scope of the Act, and only Congress retains the authority to enact designations such as national parks, wilderness, and national conservation and recreation areas. The executive power under the Act is not a substitute for a lack of congressional action on protective land designations.



President Trump was correct in tasking the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to review and provide recommendations of all monuments that were designated from 1996 to the present that are 100,000 acres or greater in size or made without adequate public consultation. This is far from the first time an examination of scope of monuments has been conducted. Existing monuments have been modified by successive Presidents in the past, including 18 reductions in the size of monuments, and there is no doubt that President Trump has the authority to review and consider recommendations to modify or add a monument.

The methodology used for the review consisted of three steps. The first step was to gather the facts which included the examination of existing proclamations, object(s) to be protected, segregation of the objects (if practical) to meet the "smallest area compatible" requirement, the scientific and rational basis for the boundaries, land uses within the monument, public access concerns and authorized traditional uses, and appropriate environmental and cultural protections. As directed by the President, the second step was to ensure that the local voice was heard by holding meetings with local, state, tribal, and other elected officials as well as meetings with non-profit groups and other stakeholders, as well as providing an online format for public comment. The final step was to review policies on public access, hunting and fishing rights, traditional use such as timber production and grazing, economic and environmental impacts, potential legal conflicts, and provide a report to the President no later than August 24, 2017.

The review found that each monument was unique in terms of the object(s) used for justification, proclamation language, history, management plans, economic impact, and local support. Adherence to the Act's definition of an "object" and "smallest area compatible" clause on some monuments were either arbitrary or likely politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management. Despite the apparent lack of adherence to the purpose of the Act, some monuments reflect a long public debate process and are largely settled and strongly supported by the local community. Other monuments remain controversial and contain significant private property within the identified external boundary or overlap with other Federal land designations such as national forests, Wilderness Study Areas, and lands specifically set aside by Congress for timber production.

Public comments can be divided into two principal groups. Proponents tended to promote monument designation as a mechanism to prevent the sale or transfer of public land. This narrative is false and has no basis in fact. Public lands within a monument are federally owned and managed regardless of monument designation under the Act. Proponents also point to the economic benefits from increased tourism from monument recognition. On this point, monument status has a potential economic benefit of increased visitation, particularly to service related industries, outdoor recreation industries, and other businesses dependent or supported by tourism. Increased visitation also places an additional burden and responsibility on the Federal

Government to provide additional resources and manpower to maintain these lands to better support increased visitation and recreational activities.

Comments received were overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments and demonstrated a well-orchestrated national campaign organized by multiple organizations. Opponents of monuments primarily supported rescinding or modifying the existing monuments to protect traditional multiple use, and those most concerned were often local residents associated with industries such as grazing, timber production, mining, hunting and fishing, and motorized recreation. Opponents point to other cases where monument designation has resulted in reduced public access, road closures, hunting and fishing restrictions, multiple and confusing management plans, reduced grazing allotments and timber production, and pressure applied to private land owners encompassed by or adjacent to a monument to sell.

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